

Belgrade's tanks pour towards breakaway republic as EC ministers try again to secure ceasefire

## Yugoslavs pound Slovenes in civil war

By TIM JUDAH IN LJUBLJANA AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

COLUMNS of Yugoslav tanks poured towards Slovenia from bases in Croatia last night as the federal army pounded nationalist forces from the air and battled with them on the ground.

The army chief of staff declared that Slovenia would be forced to accept a ceasefire and, in a menacing speech, hinted at ruthless action saying: "We will strike so that the war imposed on us is as short as possible."

Fighting all along the republic's border with Austria and army air attacks on the capital, Ljubljana, shattered the ceasefire agreed with a European Community mission on Sunday. A fresh attempt at securing peace will be made today when foreign ministers from Luxembourg, The Netherlands and Portugal visit Belgrade to discuss arrangements for observers to monitor the situation.

The conflict will also be considered by the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, which is holding an emergency meeting in Prague today. Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the German foreign minister who is also chairman

of the CSCE's new crisis committee, yesterday cancelled a visit to Ljubljana because of the danger, but met the Slovene president, Milan Kucan, in the Austrian town of Villach.

Mr Kucan has called for military observers to monitor the return of the federal forces to their barracks, but Herr Genscher made plain that only civilians would be sent. Before the talks, Mr Kucan insisted that Slovenia would not rescind its declaration of independence, saying: "The broken jug cannot be put together again."

The republic yesterday offered a new ceasefire, but the offer went unheeded by the army, whose chief of staff, General Bjugoe Adzic, said in a television interview: "The Slovenian leadership has used the most dirty tricks and lies. At the same time, the federal organs continually hampered us, demanding negotiations while they (Slovenia) were attacking us with all means."

Mr Kucan had earlier said that the army was no longer under political control and that further "arbitrary acts" by the military must be prevented.

Fighting raged through the day as nationalists clashed with Yugoslav forces. In the east, Yugoslav warplanes screamed in to bomb and rocket Slovene fighters as soldiers on the ground used tank cannons, mortar fire and automatic weapons in an effort to break through the encircling forces. The army said it lost at least ten dead and thirteen injured.

The fiercest fighting was along the border with Austria, with some Slovene forces using federal tanks seized last week. Austria has deployed about seven thousand soldiers, backed by tanks, along the frontier to prevent the battle spilling over and fighter aircraft are on standby. Further skirmishes were reported on the Italian border.

Television and radio broadcasts were interrupted after attacks on the transmitters and the republic's only nuclear power station, at Krsko in southern Slovenia, was shut down to prevent what the Slovene defence minister, Janez Jansa, called "a potential disaster" after fighting broke out near by. Mr Jansa claimed that the federal forces had begun "the second stage of the war".

Later, up to ten civilians were reported killed as columns of tanks began to move from bases in Croatia towards Slovenia. Troops opened machinegun fire at a crowd of about a thousand outside the Marshall Tito barracks in Zagreb after a petrol bomb had been hurled from the side of the road and smashed on the front of a tank, enveloping it in flames. At the same time, a hail of bricks, stones and chunks of wood was raining down upon the troops in the tunnels of their tanks.

Continued on page 20, col 5



Running for cover: rebel barricades burn as a federal army tank driver sprints for shelter during a battle with Slovene militiamen near Brezice yesterday

## Mr Plod guards Toytown at war

The people of Ljubljana are now coming to terms with the demands of invasion by media. Roger Boyes reports

Ljubljana is Toytown at war. The Slovenian capital, no larger than a small English town, is dominated by soldiers and journalists. Both sides are quick on the trigger and Ljubljana residents feel they already live in an occupied town.

The press centre, sited next to parliament, is also the local air-raid shelter. When the sirens sound, hundreds of housewives and children push into the centre and hundreds of journalists push their way out to see the action. At night, when the tension is particularly dense, sensible citizens stay at home. Japanese cameramen, mimicking the soldiers, patrol the streets, stray away are caught and filmed by the Cable News Network advance guard, or are interrogated relentlessly by reporters with German accents.

Anybody found crying is sure game for the tanks. A teenage girl who had lost her dog after an air raid was walking in tears; three international television networks surrounded her and filmed her grief, with appropriate questions about Yugoslav brutality. Luckily the dog was found.

The social structure of Toytown is familiar to anybody brought up on Enid Blyton. But war changes hats and masks. The police band, which normally plays its tubas on the grandstand in the park on Tito Boulevard, now guards the city and searches car boots for bombs. One of the main meat shops has closed because the butcher has been taken to the woods with his partisan group. The postal service (with specially printed, blue, Slovenia stamps) is working at half-strength because the clerks have become radio operators for the resistance.

Even the street vendors selling independence kitsch — the new, as yet uncirculated money, the SL car

## Bogus asylum seekers face stricter checks

By ROBIN OAKLEY AND JOHN WINDER

THE government is planning emergency legislation and a package of other measures to stem the flood of those seeking political asylum in Britain, now running at 1,000 a week. The handling of cases will be speeded up and steps taken to ensure that asylum requests are not used to circumvent immigration procedures.

Asylum seekers arriving from "safe countries" where they could have sought asylum first will be returned to those countries. Fines on airlines who carry into Britain

passengers without valid documentation will be doubled to £2,000 per head. A bill expected in the autumn will accelerate and simplify refugee admission applications, aiming to reduce the average time to "a matter of months" and ensure bogus applicants are speedily removed.

Although the bill will give every applicant whose request for entry is turned down the right to appeal, an adjudicator will be able to dismiss an appeal without an oral hearing upon deciding there is mani-

festly no substance to a claim. Kenneth Baker, the home secretary, told the Commons that the government had to balance its duty to genuine refugees with its obligation to the British people to control immigration. Roy Hattersley, Labour's home affairs spokesman, supported much of the government's package but objected to a suggestion by Mr Baker that some asylum seekers might be asked to give their finger prints to help identify them.

Mr Baker said that some asylum seekers had made multiple applications and claimed social security benefits in several identities. Social security benefits for 30,000 immigrants awaiting determination of their cases last year cost £400 million, according to the Home Office.

Mr Baker said: "We cannot allow immigration control to become optional." Almost 1,000 people a week were seeking asylum. Applications had risen from 5,000 in 1988 to 30,000 last year. There was a backlog of 50,000 undecided cases growing at 3,000 a month and the average decision time was over 16 months and getting longer.

Mr Baker said that checks at sea ports and airports would be more stringent and the government would help improve document checks at certain overseas airports. The police would continue to seek out corrupt agents. Up to 500 extra staff are being recruited for the Home Office immigration department to speed up initial assessments and new rules will impose time limits for the submission of material in support of claims. Extra legal staff will be recruited to speed the hearing of appeals.

Tighter screening, page 2  
Leading article, page 15

## BBC governors choose Birt for top job in 1993

By MELINDA WITTSTOCK, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

JOHN BIRT is to take over from Michael Checkland as the next director-general of the BBC but not until March 1993, the corporation announced yesterday. Its governors, divided over which man to back in the succession struggle, opted for a compromise which is widely seen in the industry as a snub for Mr Checkland.

The BBC is extending his contract by just one year and has appointed Mr Birt, aged 46, his highly ambitious deputy, as director-general designate.

Mr Birt, who has made no secret of his aspiration to fill the most powerful job in British broadcasting, is expected to introduce a radical plan to further slim down the BBC as it approaches the expiry in 1996 of its charter.

Yesterday's news, after a marathon board of governors meeting on Monday night, gave rise to immediate comment throughout the broadcasting industry that the one-year extension would handicap Mr Checkland. But he said: "I intend to be the

BBC's director-general for the next 18 months. Those who know me well know that I would not have agreed to stay if I was going to be a lame duck."

Mr Birt, who has been adept at wooing both Tory and Labour politicians, is seen as a good choice to keep the government on the BBC's side. But many BBC employees question his over-hierarchical methods and distrust his ambition.

The BBC is to axe 135 jobs in Ulster over the next three years, it was disclosed today. The scaling down of staff will mean savings of £1.8 million, according to Mr Robin Walsh, the Northern Ireland controller.

The BBC employs 670 people in the province. Engineering, technical and premises staff have been hardest hit with the loss of more than 70 jobs. Over 20 jobs will be lost in programme production, and 20 more in news and current affairs.

Birt the scourge, page 2  
Media, page 28

## ARCHITECTURE IN THE TIMES

### NEW DIRECTIONS



Marcus Binney, the distinguished architectural writer and president of Save Britain's Heritage, has joined *The Times* as architecture correspondent. Today he assesses a decade of London Docklands, a place of design innovation flawed by other factors. Page 14

### PAST IMPRESSIONS

*Times* Property unveils the Veneto Villa, Quinlan Terry's classical design for the Crown Estate. Should that, at £9 million, be beyond first time buyers, Christopher Warman has news for them. Page 31

### INSIDE NEWS

Remick dies  
The actress Lee Remick died of cancer at her home in Los Angeles at the age of 55. Remick, whose films include *Days of Wine and Roses* and *Anatomy of a Murder*, had fought liver cancer for two years. Page 16

### Stamp increase

The price of a first class stamp is set to increase by two pence for the second year running in September if the government accepts Post Office proposals. Second class letters will increase by one penny. Page 2

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That sinking feeling: John McEnroe during his defeat in straight sets yesterday by Stefan Edberg, the No. 1 seed who is defending his Wimbledon singles title. McEnroe, ranked No. 16 this year, showed his title-winning form of the early 1980s only rarely although he gave glimpses of his old behaviour by arguing on three occasions with the umpire. In the women's singles, Martina Navratilova lost the first set of her match against Jennifer Capriati and was 3-2 up in the second when rain stopped play for the day. Wimbledon, 39, 40

## Clowes' 'life of Riley'

DEFENDANTS in the Barlow Clowes trial were yesterday accused of taking £113 million of clients' funds and "living the life of Riley".

At the start of what is expected to be a nine-month trial, the prosecution at the Central Criminal Court said that the financier Peter Clowes masterminded a fraud which involved telling investors their savings would go into "rock solid" securities but in

reality cash was spent on houses, cars, yachts, antiques and shares.

The court was told that instead of the money being placed in British government gilt-edged stocks, the defendants used the cash to live the life of Riley, and made good the deficiencies in clients' funds by using fresh money from new investors.

Funds stolen, page 3

## MPs want the Speaker to cut their speeches

By SHEILA GUNN  
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MEMBERS of Parliament have at last admitted what everyone else has always believed: they talk too much. The MPs own up to verbosity and support greater powers to limit speech-making in a private opinion poll conducted by the Commons procedure committee.

Most of the 650 members of the Commons accept that the powers of Bernard Weatherill, the Speaker, should be extended to allow him to set a ten-minute limit on speeches at any time of the day and for all stages of legislation. At present he can restrict speaking time only when large numbers of MPs want to address the

House during mainstream debates such as second readings, and then for only two hours a day.

MPs want, however, to protect the rights of the genuine filibuster, that parliamentary creature who holds up legislation he opposes by speaking for hours. The record for the longest speech is technically held by the former Labour MP, John Goding, who clocked up 12 hours but took breaks for tea. The accepted holder of the title is therefore Ivan Lawrence, QC, the Conservative MP for Burton, who spoke for four and a half hours on fluoridation, breaking the record held for many years by the father of the House, Sir Bernard Braine who, in 1974, spoke for three hours and 16

minutes on the concentration of hazardous chemicals on Canvey Island, Essex, in his constituency of Castle Point. His campaign for government action eventually paid off. He said this week: "I would myself favour limited speeches. But there is a world of difference between that sort of normal everyday debating and a redress of a grievance."

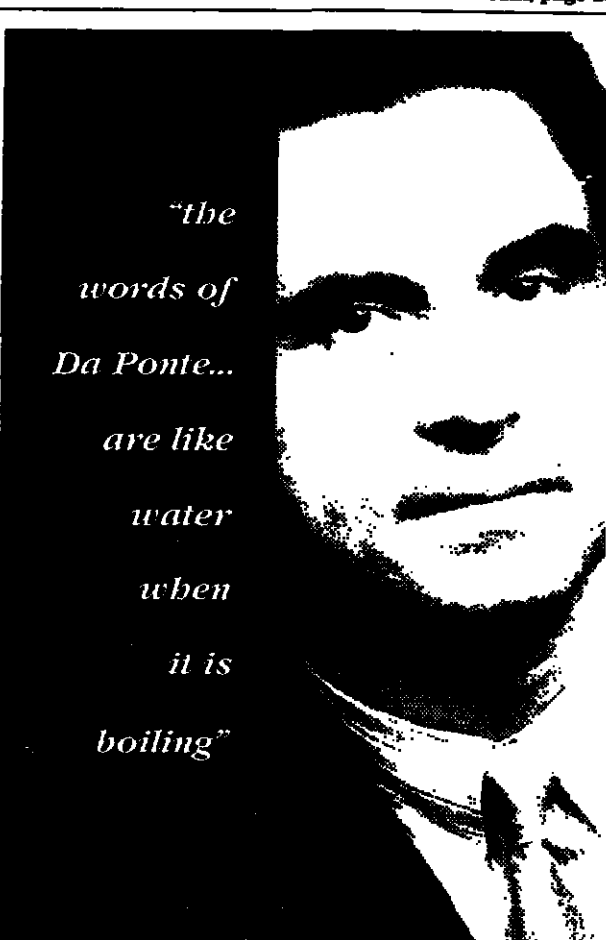
Many of the true filibustering speeches have, like Sir Bernard's, proved among the most notable and effective in embarrassing ministers into taking action. They include Henry Brougham's famous six-hour oration on law reform in 1828 and the dramatist Sheridan's motion of five hours 40 minutes in 1787 on impeach-

ing Warren Hastings "for high crimes and misdemeanours in India".

Mr Weatherill yesterday gave evidence in private to the procedure committee, chaired by Sir Peter Emery, and, like most of the committee, is understood to favour an extension of his powers. John MacGregor, leader of the Commons, will give his views in a public session today. The committee's report is expected within two weeks.

MPs, of course, have a vested interest in extending the time limit. Shorter speeches mean more of them can catch the Speaker's eye and speak in televised debates.

Today's parliament, page 7



Riccardo Muti  
in the July issue of

# GRAMOPHONE

The Review  
of New  
Classical  
Recordings

ON SALE NOW









The Times faces holiday-shares chief with criticisms of methods

## Timeshare director blames US salesmen

By PAUL WILKINSON

GLOBE Link Marketing, responsible for the tough timeshare selling and unsatisfactory gifts detailed in *The Times* over the past two days, has run into trouble with the authorities more than once.

In March the Advertising Standards Authority (ASA) upheld 25 complaints about its mailshots, and Companies House, which keeps a check on the affairs of all limited firms in England and Wales, has threatened to de-register it over its failure to produce a set of year-end accounts.

Globe Link started life in 1989. Three directors share its 5,000 £1 shares. One, Anton Tardif, is also the company secretary. He claims that after helping to set up the company he has little to do with its day-to-day operations. Mr Tardif said that the man at the helm of GLM was Alasdair McKinnon, a fellow director, who was ill and unable to answer our questions.

Mr Tardif was in France last week and questions from *The Times* had to be faxed to him.

On the sales techniques of Globe Link, he replied: "If all companies within the industry are obliged to operate under the same rules and regulations, all will have an equal chance of achieving the sales desired. Unfortunately, this is not the case at the moment."

He said of the trade body, the Timeshare Council: "I would not commit a company with which I was involved to join such an organisation until such time that I was sure that our competitors were similarly committed."

He "applauded" government examination of the industry but said he was not in favour of detailed legislation, which would take at least two years to put in place, by which time changes in the business would make it outdated.

The quality of gifts at Globe Link presentations was a matter for the manufacturers and distributors, he said.

On the question of a cooling-off period, Mr Tardif said that the government and the European Commission could not agree on how long it

should be. "If they cannot agree on something as simple as this, how can we expect up-to-date and relevant legislation to be passed?"

He said that the industry had done itself a "diservice" in the way it had marketed an "excellent" product, but blamed an influx of marketers from the US in the early Eighties and an irresponsible press that glossed over the fact that owners are "in general very happy with their timeshare purchase".

On the ASA's criticisms in March, Mr Tardif said that Globe Link had ceased to use mailshots by then. "In more recent times we have employed companies who specialise in providing sales leads for, among others, the timeshare industry, though I understand that they do use mailshots from time to time."

*The Times* has several examples of leaflets sent for Globe Link promotions since March.

Mr Tardif blamed GLM's conflict with Companies House on the theft of documents from a fellow director.



Timeshare toil: Ted Williams struggles to assemble the downmarket grandfather clock and (right) the finished product. He said the kit was worth about £15

## A craftsman, the sweat and a plastic heirloom

Cheap and chipboard. *The Times* found a clock expert to assemble the timeshare prize. Job satisfaction was minimal, as Alice Thomson reports

THE *Times* lawyer, Alastair Brett, endured an uncomfortable timeshare presentation and was grumpily given a grandfather clock kit after refusing to invest in a holiday home.

It came as a kit in a cardboard box with instructions promising: "Old World style and traditional English craftsmanship are skilfully blended to create this elegant six foot tall reproduction oak longcase grandfather clock. This majestic modern classic is sure to add a touch of elegance to any room in your home and will be passed on from generation to generation."

The contents of the box, however, disclosed little evidence of any traditional craftsmanship. Much of the body is laminate-veneered chipboard. The clock face is gold-coloured paper stuck on hardboard, with plastic hands.

During our search to find an expert willing to assemble the kit, Sotheby's and Christie's refused to touch it. "Rather too far down the other end of the market," they said.

Emperor Clocks Company Ltd in Virginia Water, Surrey, which makes its own grandfather clock kits, agreed to do the job. Mark Trimming, its managing director, said he would be surprised if anyone could produce something of quality for less than £300.

Ted Williams, the company's clock technician, "with a lifetime experience of clocks", broke open the box's seal watched by Mr Trimming.

"It's made of plastic and rough chipboard," Mr Williams said. "I thought it was meant to be oak. What's more its plastic walnut, they don't even know their woods."

Mr Trimming said: "I don't know how they can call this reproduction. I've never seen anything like it and I've been in antique clocks all my life."

People who have been awarded the grandfather clock kit and decide not to go to the timeshare presentation can still obtain a clock by sending £34.95 to cover "handling, packing and insurance" to an address in Exmouth. Mr Trimming said he would pay about £15 for the kit and about £4 for delivery.

"A precision Swiss movement, ensuring years of quartz accurate timekeeping," as the instructions described it, was a small black plastic box that Mr Trimming said he could get for about 25p. He reckoned the hands were worth 8p each.

Nearly two hours later Mr Williams had worked himself up into a sweat. He had to flatten buckled corners and bend the see-through plastic frontpiece to make it fit into the framework. Two screws were missing and the pendulum shown in the picture was non-existent. Holes were in the wrong places and the chipboard kept splintering.

"You can't put screws into that," Mr Trimming said. "The chipboard is too soft and the screws will soon collapse. If a housewife bumped into it, it could fall to pieces."

The weights had to be stuck on with sticky tape. Ornamental plastic mouldings came with their own sticky-back plastic but they hadn't been cut straight.

Finally the clock was assembled and eased upright. It swayed gingerly. It was over six foot tall: the instructions hadn't lied about that, but it didn't look as though it would survive the journey back, let alone become a family heirloom.

## Touting for trade with new tricks

TIMESHARE touts are devising new ways to lure customers. The latest is a postcard asking the recipient to call two 0898 numbers for details of a "European promotion" (Paul Wilkinson writes).

Calls cost 45p a minute at peak times and 34p at other times. The money is shared with British Telecom. One number checked by Cleveland trading standards officers was connected to a recorded message which, at peak time rates, cost £4 to hear out.

Mailshots have long been used to bring in custom. The Consumers' Association says that at least half the adult population has received an invitation to a timeshare promotion. Now that the public has become hardened to such approaches, other methods are being tried.

One is the bogus market researcher who button-holes passers-by. Interviewees are told that they will be entered in a prize draw. Several weeks later the customer is told he has won and must collect the gift at a presentation.

The practice now has its own name, "sugging" - selling under guise. Prizes have included an Electra speedboat in which a boy aged 16 died recently when he and his father tried to sail it off Weston-super-Mare, and a "spa bath", which turned out to be a sprinkler to be put in the winner's own bath.

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## Protesters told of tip alternative

THE alternative to a 1.75-million-ton waste tip on the banks of a river that supplies two million people with drinking water is a seven-year clay extraction scheme, a public enquiry was told yesterday.

Shanks and McEwan, which wants to create the tip in a loop of the river Dee at Pen-y-Bont, Clwyd, has the rights to extract 1,400,000 tons of clay from the area. Michael Philpott, technical director of the firm's waste services division, told residents on the opening day of the enquiry at Chirk. Christopher Lockhart-Mummery, QC, for the company, said that the result would be 160 lorry movements onto the site each day.

The waste tip plan is opposed by 11 local authorities, four water companies, eight angling associations, at least six environmental or countryside pressure groups and more than 1,000 individuals. They fear that the waste will contaminate the river. The public enquiry is into the appeal by Shanks and McEwan - Britain's biggest waste disposal company - against Clwyd county council's rejection of the plan.

Mr Lockhart-Mummery told the enquiry that the National Rivers Authority had a duty to ensure that water quality objectives were achieved at all times. "We would expect to comply with the highest standards recognised internationally for containment sites in water sensitive areas," he said.

Mr Philpott added that at its closest point to the River Dee the site was 150 metres away. The enquiry continues today.

## Travellers 'taking risk with health'

Thousands of holidaymakers and business travellers put themselves at risk from disease without protecting their health, Sir Colin Marshall, chief executive of British Airways, said yesterday.

Two million people chose unusual destinations last year, but a third took no precautions against common, sometimes fatal, illnesses, he said. Of every 100,000 travellers, 10,000 needed to see a doctor and 500 were admitted to hospital; 2,000 returned with malaria last year. "The figures are worrying," Sir Colin said at the opening of a BA travel clinic in London. "People are risking months off work, at the very least, for the sake of a few minutes in a travel clinic."

## Death claim

A £120,000 damages claim over the death at Barlinnie prison, Glasgow, of Terence Bryce, aged 29, who was jailed for six months for assault in 1987, has been settled out of court on undisclosed terms.

The family of Bryce, who was found hanged with a sheet, alleged that he should have been treated as a suicide risk.

## Eton expulsions

Two 15-year-old pupils have been expelled from Eton College for smoking cannabis. The headmaster, Dr Eric Anderson, said: "The boys were more foolish than wicked, but we do not want drugs in the school and are prepared to expel boys rather than risk others being drawn in."

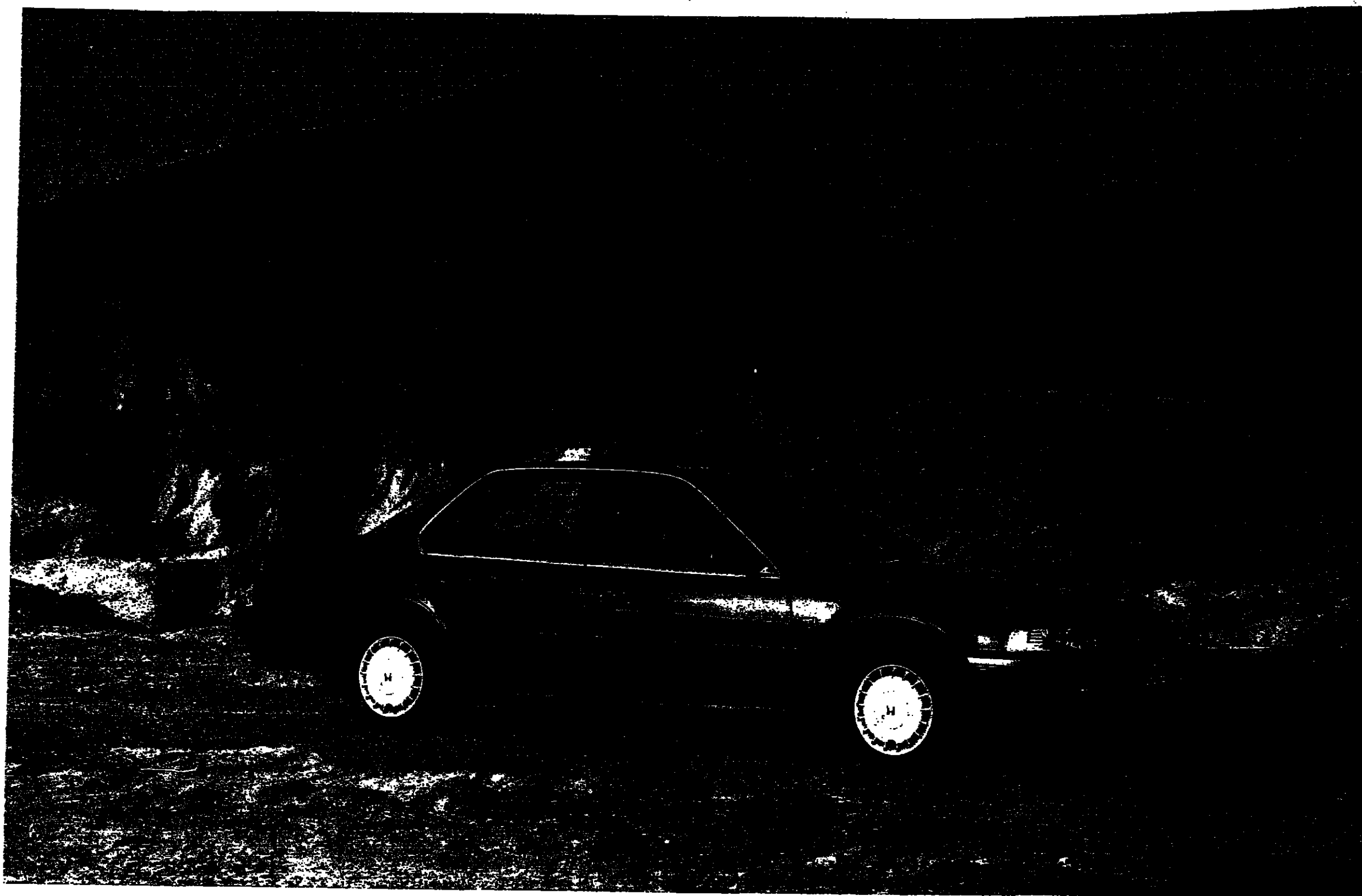
## Bond winner

The winner of the £250,000 National Savings Premium Bonds draw for July is the holder of bond 19WZ 578951, from the West Midlands.









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APV 120135



## Forecasts of home defaults exaggerated, House told

By PETER MULLIGAN AND ROBERT MORGAN

THE government sought last night to rebut predictions of more and more home buyers having their houses repossessed. Recent predictions were too gloomy, Sir George Young, the housing minister, told the Commons during an Opposition-inspired debate on housing.

He was responding to Bryan Gould, shadow environment secretary, who said that repossessions in the year to March had doubled to 47,940 and were predicted to double

again over the next twelve months. Mr Gould, citing a Bank of England study showing that 784,000 loans, or one in twelve, were two months or more in arrears, said: "Home ownership is becoming an impossible dream for many and an impossible nightmare for many more."

Sir George acknowledged that over the past three years many people had had difficulties with rising interest rates, but those rates had now dropped by three-and-a-half percentage points in less than a year.

Incomes for those in work had been rising by an average of 4.5 per cent and so the pressure was reducing. If home buyers could cope in a period of rising interest rates, they should be able to cope in a period of falling rates. "I would hope to see fewer repossessions because of that imbalance", he said.

Mr Gould said that people had been lured by the boom in owning their own homes and had then been trapped by soaring interest rates. He accused the government of placing an exclusive emphasis on ownership. Ministers could not conceive that for many people renting was the preferable or only option.

They were still at it, he said, offering rent-to-mortgage schemes when the immediate need was to help with mortgage-to-rent schemes. "Those who live by the market, die by the market. Today's property market has killed not only the hopes of millions of families but also the illusions of the government itself."

He accused ministers of trying to press everyone into the same mould and criticised an over-reliance on the private sector, adding: "Home ownership will be the option that appeals to many people, but there will always be others who prefer to rent."

Mr Gould repeated Labour's pledge for a crash programme of 50,000 new homes to ease the housing crisis which, he said, had been caused by a failure to build enough new houses and rising costs.

Sir George told the House that government action to help rough sleepers had led to the closure of the so-called "cardboard city" near Waterloo station in London. Further action was being taken to find hostel or other accommodation for other rough sleepers.

Government housing policy, he said, was not based on a huge municipal expansion, but on a diversified approach based on the public sector working closely with the private sector which was bringing in fresh funds.

Richard Tracey, Tory MP for Surbiton, asked when the government was going to do something to force local authorities to bring empty properties back into use.

Sir George told him that the government was looking at the problem to see if it could protect tenants from the incompetence of their local authority landlords.



Sir George: fewer repossessions likely in future

## Major sticks to economy forecast

THE prime minister sought yesterday to steady Conservative jitters over the scale of the recession by standing firmly by the Treasury prediction that the economy would start to pick up in the second half of the year (Nicholas Wood writes).

In a sharp Commons clash with Neil Kinnock, John Major maintained that the upturn in the world economy would help a domestic revival. However, the Labour leader argued that all the evidence pointed to a recession stretching into next year and beyond.

The prime minister denied reports, fuelled by the Chancellor's failure last week to repeat his customary prediction of a second-half pick-up and by increasing concern on the Tory benches, that the government was being forced to revise its economic forecasts.

He told Mr Kinnock: "I still believe that we are going to see this economy moving out of recession in the second half of this year. That is echoed by a number of independent commentators. I see no reason to revise the forecasts we have previously given."

## Professor 'shudders for next generation'

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

CHILDREN from single-parent families do worse than their counterparts from traditional families in physical, educational and emotional terms, a prominent socialist academic told a seminar yesterday.

Professor A. H. Halsey, a sociologist and fellow of Nuffield College, Oxford university, who said later that he shuddered for the next generation, took issue with Neil Kinnock's assertion that the country and the government should support the family whatever its structure.

He said the logic of the evidence was that "you are not so keen supporting any sort of family but you are keen on supporting the traditional family."

Professor Halsey's comments came at a seminar organised jointly by the Joseph Rowntree Trust and the Institute of Economic Affairs at the Institute's headquarters in London. The seminar was the latest in a series of attempts by the institute to reach agreement across a broad range of academic and political opinion about the effects of

the breakdown of the traditional family.

As Mr Kinnock's comments in a Labour policy paper released in February make clear, views differ over whether the absence of a father disadvantages children. There are more



Halsey: Kinnock view of family not accepted

than a million lone parents and their number is increasing by 40,000 a year. In a paper circulated at the seminar, Professor Halsey said that the children of single-parent families found it harder to live a successful life.

"Such children, on the

evidence available, tend to die earlier, to have more illness, to do less well at school, to exist at a lower level of nutrition, comfort and conviviality, to suffer more unemployment, to be more prone to deviance and crime, and finally to repeat the cycle of unstable parenting from which they have themselves been formed as relatively unsuccessful social personalities. This is a thesis of fundamental importance to anyone who views our present system of upbringing as less than perfect. The evidence for it is formidable."

Many right wingers blame family breakdown on the permissive society, but Professor Halsey singled out the "hedonistic, egocentric, individualistic" attitudes fostered under Margaret Thatcher's government.

However, Professor Jonathan Bradshaw, of York university social work department, argued that "the jury was still out" on the effects of lone parenthood and said that more research was needed.



## Action is sought on pay rises

John Major came under renewed pressure at question time, from Harry Ewing, Labour MP for Falkirk East, to intervene in the controversy surrounding the pay increases of chairmen and chief executives of privatised industries.

However, Mr Major refused to move beyond his earlier statements criticising big increases.

## Nuclear vote

The government last night narrowly defeated a move for legal guarantees that nuclear warhead work should go to British companies after the running of the Aldermaston-based Atomic Weapons Establishment is handed to private contractors. Peers voted 126 to 110 against an Opposition amendment to the Atomic Weapons Establishment bill.

## New peer



Miss Jennifer Hilton (above), a former metropolitan police commander, was introduced in the Lords as Lady Hilton of Epsom and took her seat on the Labour benches.

## Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions: Trade and industry. Debates on aid to Iraqi refugees and on unemployment.

Lords (2.30): Criminal justice bill, Commons amendments.

## Civil servant job moves upset MPs

By RICHARD FORD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MORE details should be provided about the number of civil servants leaving Whitehall to join commercial organisations, a select committee recommended yesterday.

The MPs also called for greater public scrutiny of the system under which officials seek permission to join business after resigning or retiring from the civil service.

They also suggested that if a senior civil servant accepts employment in the commercial world, the committee that advises the prime minister on business appointments should publish its conclusions.

Under such a change, designed, in the words of one committee member, to remove any suspicion that an "old boys network" operates, applications from those at permanent secretary, second permanent secretary and deputy secretary level would be open to greater publicity. It would mean that the reasons why the committee insisted that Sir Peter Middleton had to wait six months after resigning as permanent secretary at the Treasury before joining Barclays Bank would have been made public.

The Treasury and civil service select committee called for tighter rules governing approaches made to civil ser-

vants from the commercial world. It said that officials involved in procurement or contract work should be obliged to report all approaches that seem likely to lead to offers of employment.

Officials below the level of grade three should be asked, on resigning or retiring from the civil service, for details of any employment they intend to take up, the MPs said. There should also be closer monitoring of people who had resigned, particularly where they accepted positions with consultancy firms or worked as consultants.

The MPs were critical that only four people were employed in the Cabinet Office section dealing with business appointments and called for additional resources.

The report detailed the many applications from civilians in the defence ministry and members of the armed services. Applications from such categories accounted for half of all applications under business appointment rules from those in grades four to seven and about three-quarters at senior executive officer level or below. A Cabinet Office memorandum said that such civil servants quickly built up skills that were most in demand in industry.

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سائنبوري



# Mandela sets stage for turbulent move to multiracial rule

FROM GAVIN BELL IN DURBAN

NELSON Mandela yesterday drew the battle lines for a turbulent transition to multi-racial democracy in South Africa with a bitter attack on the government as a duplicitous political machine intent on retaining power.

Opening the first national conference of the African National Congress inside South Africa for 30 years, Mr Mandela accused the ruling National party of pursuing a double agenda of talking peace while allowing its security forces to foment violence in black townships. "We are dealing with a regime that is steeped in a culture of racism, violence and domination. We are dealing with a group of politicians who do not want to negotiate themselves out of power," he said.

"It has never been on the agenda of the National party to enter into negotiations with anybody other than those whom it has placed in supposed positions of power," he added. Pretoria could not expect the ANC to accept its good faith "when it sits paralysed as the security forces it controls engage in violence against the people and remain immune from prosecution."

when there is clear evidence of their involvement or complicity at the murder of innocent people," he said.

Then, departing from his prepared text, Mr Mandela sharply rebuked President de Klerk for announcing that agreement had been reached with the ANC on the release of prisoners claiming political status. He said he had "totally repudiated" Mr de Klerk's statement of Monday night in a telephone call to Kobi Coetsee, the justice minister.

Mr Mandela, who will succeed the ailing Oliver Tambo as ANC president during the five-day conference, envisaged tough negotiations with Pretoria. "The point which must be clearly understood is that the struggle is not over, and negotiations themselves are a theatre of struggle leading to our central objective, the transfer of power to the people."

Mr Mandela's remarks signalled a profound change of attitude towards the government in recent months. In contrast to his conciliatory remarks last year, there was no word of praise for Mr de Klerk for abolishing the laws proping up apartheid.

A perception that Pretoria has been dragging its feet on agreements to release political prisoners and repatriate exiles while turning a blind eye to an incipient civil war in the townships has transformed the goodwill generated by the unbanning of the ANC into suspicion and hostility.

There is no doubt that Mr Mandela has been influenced by angry and impatient voices in his constituency, but it is equally apparent that he now shares those views. As a result, the ANC is resolved to step up "mass action" to back its demands for an elected constituent assembly and an interim government, and to maintain its armed wing in a state of readiness.

Mr Mandela argued that, in the absence of voting rights, the organised protest was the only legitimate form of expression open to blacks. "We have suspended armed action, but we have not terminated the armed struggle," he said.

He reaffirmed the ANC's desire for a speedy transition to multiracial democracy, and emphasised the need for politicians to present to the electorate. But he left the clear impression that the ANC still regarded itself as a liberation movement, in no mood to transform itself overnight into a political party.

Archbishop Trevor Huddleston, the president of the Anti-Apartheid Movement in Britain, received a standing ovation for an opening address in which he criticised the international community for removing sanctions.

"Their motivation does not spring, I assure you, from love of the ANC; it springs from greed and the desire to make more money," he said.

The archbishop, who returned to South Africa last week after an absence of 35 years, said that the township violence was a deliberate attempt to undermine the peace process by weakening the ANC.

● Johannesburg: An opinion poll yesterday showed that 62 per cent of blacks would support the ANC in a general election. The Witwatersrand university survey of township opinion showed that the National party would win 12 per cent of support and the ANC's main black rival, the Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom party, led by Chief Mangosuthu Buthe, 5 per cent. (Reuters)



Handing over: Oliver Tambo, right, the ANC president, greeting his successor Nelson Mandela yesterday

## Odourless garlic a hit in Japan

FROM AFP IN TOKYO

JAPANESE gourmets, increasingly uncomfortable in a country determined to get rid of bad smells, have found a solution - odourless garlic.

Several brands of the garlic have appeared on the Japanese market and met with immediate success. One of the most popular is Doctor Sakai's Garlic, named after its inventor, Kotaro Sakai, who treated the cloves with a special solution made partly from a rice extract.

Dr Sakai, president of Tokyo's Sanko Chemical Institute, said the odour disappears 30 minutes after a person eats the specially treated garlic. His garlic sells for £1.55 in several big Tokyo shops. Another kind of odourless garlic, known as mutant garlic, has been developed by Maruetsu, a big supermarket chain. Production of mutant garlic by one of its co-operatives has risen to about 20 per cent of its total garlic output.

## Liberal challenge for Bush's judge

FROM SUSAN ELLICOTT IN WASHINGTON

DAVID Souter, President Bush's first appointment to the United States Supreme Court, came through his confirmation hearings unscathed. Clarence Thomas, his second in less than one year, faces a rougher ride, as congressional liberals flinch at the prospect of a bench with a clear right-wing majority.

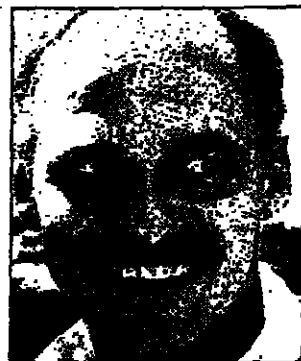
The White House would like nothing more than for Judge Thomas, who is black, to prevail in a tussle with some of the Republican party's leading bogymen on Capitol Hill. The Gulf war has boosted Mr Bush's overall public approval ratings from a weak phase surrounding his nomination of Mr Souter. The costly rescue of savings and loan companies with taxpayers' money has drifted from the spotlight even as a banking crisis seems to grow. America's re-emergence as a superpower and signs of an economic recovery have raised the president's standing on Capitol Hill.

Among the Democratic senators preparing to maul the

43-year-old conservative on his abortion and affirmative action views are Edward Kennedy, the self-styled champion of rights for women, homosexuals and racial minorities.

Mr Bush has made clear that anyone who tries to make a case that he picked Mr Thomas because he is black will face charges of racism. Democrats are on notice that they wanted him to appoint a member of a minority to the Supreme Court in place of the retiring Justice, Thurgood Marshall, aged 82, a legendary liberal and the bench's first and only black.

Mr Thomas is a mirror-image of Justice Marshall politically, believing in self-help instead of assistance to minorities through favourable hiring policies, although both had childhoods in the impoverished, segregated South. He would be an important symbol of the Bush administration's motto that good education and "traditional values", or strong families and religious faith, are the greatest self-improvers.



Cristiani: discouraged fuller investigation

cutting a big hole for access. All that is needed is an inch-wide incision to let in the equipment.

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Cutting disaster down to size: children in Olongapo, in the area affected by Mount Pinatubo's eruption, use volcanic ash to construct a scale model

## Volcano toll rises to 352

San Fernando, Philippines - Thirty-two people were killed as rain dislodged volcanic debris down Mount Pinatubo's slopes over the weekend, raising the eruption's death toll to 352, officials said yesterday (AFP reports).

The avalanche of mud, rocks and ash buried a village near Botolan town, west of

Pinatubo, late on Sunday, officials here said. Volcanic debris also swamped rivers and devastated six villages to the east of the volcano on the same day, but there were no reports of casualties.

The Red Cross put the death toll from the eruption at 320 before the report on the Botolan casualties. The Phil-

ippines has sought emergency aid from the International Monetary Fund to ease the financial effects of the eruption, the finance secretary, Jesus Estanislao, said yesterday. This would cover extra foreign exchange costs affecting Manila's balance of payments as a result of the eruption.

## Murder shadow touches Salvador high command

FROM ALAN TOMLINSON IN SAN SALVADOR

THE night of November 15, 1989, changed the course of Henry Campos's life and may ultimately change much more, in El Salvador.

He had spent five days huddled with his parents in their middle-class home in a San Salvador suburb as left-wing guerrillas fought troops outside.

In the morning, he heard that six Jesuit priests, eminent university professors suspected by the army of being guerrilla sympathisers, had been dragged from their beds and murdered. Their cook and her daughter, potential witnesses, had been killed.

Señor Campos, a lawyer, aged 28, who worked in the offices of the attorney general, was assigned to the case, with his friend and colleague, Sidney Blanco, aged 29, under an investigating judge.

Now nine government soldiers, including a colonel and two other officers, await trial. But the two young attorneys are convinced that respon-

sibility reaches higher up the chain of military command, perhaps to the top.

When their efforts to pursue the case were blocked, they resigned to work as private prosecutors for the Jesuit order and the families of the dead and are now calling for a separate investigation.

Their stand threatens the entire structure of the Salvador armed forces, which have been built up and trained by the United States as a bulwark against left-wing subversion.

"The evidence is concealed in this powerful military apparatus where we cannot get at it," said Señor Blanco. "We have neither the means nor the opportunity to question the joint chiefs of staff. To try would be to commit suicide."

Two respected American human rights organisations and a congressional task force, appointed in Washington to monitor progress in the case, share the conclusion that there is ample evidence pointing to higher institutional involvement in the murders. Yet the investigating judge has balked at using his own powers to cut through a web of contradictions and perjury woven in his court by the officer corps.

The pro-military civilian government of President Alfredo Cristiani has discouraged the fuller investigation, while conceding that involvement of the high command "cannot be ruled out".

The two attorneys find themselves out on a limb with only the Jesuit order behind them. "They are pioneers, establishing standards of cour-

age and legal thinking which have rarely, if ever, been seen in El Salvador," said Father Michael Czerny, vice-rector of the University of Central America, to which the dead Jesuits belonged.

● Army accused: Joseph Moakley, an American congressman, rejected on Monday the Salvador military's contention that individuals killed the six priests, and said the armed forces bore institutional responsibility. He also accused the current high command of participating in a cover-up. (AFP)

## Written off in cinema recession

FROM CHARLES BREMMER IN NEW YORK

FOR the past couple of years, every second waiter, taxi driver and burnt-out yuppie in New York and Los Angeles has been working on a film script. Thanks to the rush of big action pictures and a shift in studio habits, screenwriters have been commanding six or seven-figure sums and enjoying a prestige not seen since Hollywood's unhappy experience with the likes of Raymond Chandler, F. Scott Fitzgerald and William Faulkner.

But it was too good to last. The screenwriter is now heading back to the studio cubicle and the one-room rental. "The bubble has burst," *Variety*'s main headline shouted this week. "Hollywood has lost its lust for the speculative screenplays that just a year ago were drawing stratospheric prices."

Recession, the demise of the techno-epic, and a refusal to be manipulated by the antics of agents lie behind the return of the writer to drudgery and life at the bottom of the Hollywood totem pole. Once again it seems unlikely that the imprints of writers will ever outnumber animals on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

"It was foolishness. It was not about craftsmanship. It was worrying about what the next guy was doing," said Roger Birnbaum, vice-president for production at 20th Century Fox, one of the few studios which stayed aloof from the bidding wars for ready-made scripts that began in late 1989. Only one current film, *Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves*, has brought a million-dollar speculative script to commercial success despite production trouble and scathing reviews.

More typical is the fate of *The Ticking Man*, a would-be epic about a humanoid nuclear bomb, bought in script form by Largo Entertainment last year from Brian Koppelman and Manny Coto for \$1 million. Bruce Willis has dropped out as the star and the project is now "in reassessment", as the euphemism put it. The writers conceived the film in a telephone conversation after Mr Koppelman joked: "Let's not hang up the phone until we come up with an idea we can sell for a million dollars."

"We started throwing bad ideas at each other. Then Manny said, 'What if a nuclear bomb became sentient?' Within minutes, we had our robot." Their agent primed the studios by sending a ticking clock to leading producers a week before the scripts landed on their desks for auction. The feeding frenzy over scripts was generated by a desire to escape "development hell", in which ideas are pitched and screenplays laboriously crafted and redrafted by relays of writers and then, more often than not, thrown away.

## Kashmir declares elections invalid

Islamabad - Mumtaz Hussain Rathore, the prime minister of Pakistan-ruled Kashmir, declared invalid regional elections held last weekend, alleging they were rigged to defeat his party.

He told a press conference he had disbanded the territory's election commission which conducted Saturday's polling, won by the conservative All-Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference, and had named a judicial commission to investigate. Mr Rathore, a follower of the Pakistani opposition leader, Benazir Bhutto, said that officials controlling the administration of the territory had rigged the vote on orders from Mian Nawaz Sharif, the prime minister of Pakistan.

In unprecedented defiance of Islamabad, Mr Rathore sacked two officials controlling the Kashmir civil service and police, and named two state officials to take the post of chief secretary and inspector-general of police. Saturday's vote was for 40 seats of a 48-member legislative assembly, which elects the state prime minister. (Reuters)

## Curfew in port

Antananarivo - A night curfew has been imposed in the Madagascar port of Toamasina, after serious rioting injured five people. It came after three weeks of protests in Antananarivo, the capital organised by opposition parties demanding a new constitution, free elections and an end to President Ratsiraka's 16-year rule. (AP)

## Aids increase

Geneva - Officially reported Aids cases rose by more than 5,000 in June to reach a global total of 371,802 in 163 countries, the World Health Organisation said. There were 2,423 new cases in the United States, where the total number has reached 179,136. Europe reported 52,389 cases, an increase of 283. (Reuters)

## Cuba struggle

Havana - President Castro said that Cuba was having to "practically do miracles" to keep afloat because the Soviet Union had not sent raw materials. With the exception of oil, Cuba had received virtually "not a single tonne" of raw materials in the first five months of this year, he said. (Reuters)

## 500 tiger victims

Dhaka - Royal Bengal tigers have killed 500 people in the past six months in the Sundarban mangrove forests of Bangladesh, according to local newspapers. The protected animals have claimed an unusually high number of victims, including wood-cutters and fishermen. (AFP)

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## If you're free this evening, see my operation

FROM CHARLES BREMMER IN NEW YORK

NOW that home video is old hat, you have to do better than a film show of your last holidays if you want to excite the neighbours. You might try inviting them to witness your gall bladder operation.

Over the past year or so, surgeons across America have begun providing videotapes to patients as a memento of their operations, letting them relive the thrills of the theatre, complete with a running commentary by the doctor in charge.

This breakthrough in home entertainment has been pioneered by surgeons specialising in laparoscopy, which uses fibre optics and miniature cameras and instruments. The technique has revolutionised abdominal surgery, enabling doctors to perform an array of procedures, from gall bladder removal to bowel and hernia repair without the messy business of

cutting a big hole for access. All that is needed is an inch-wide incision to let in the equipment.

In some operations the patient may observe events "live" on the colour monitor along with the surgeon while under a local anaesthetic, but most sleep through the recording. The action replays are proving highly successful, feeding the hypochondriac streak of the average couch potato and also helping deter lawsuits by litigious patients.

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## Slovenes convinced Yugoslavia is preparing more powerful blow

"NO PETS allowed in the air raid shelter" read the stencilled posters nailed to concrete shelters throughout Ljubljana. The order showed, apparently with good reason, that the Slovenes feared there would be a second concerted military attack on their alpine republic.

"This time," said Anton Bebler, military adviser to the Slovene leadership, "it will have to be total war." The Slovene resistance, using guerrilla tactics to seal off barracks and block highways, surprised the Yugoslav army, which managed to deploy only a few thousand of the 24,000 soldiers garrisoned in Slovenia.

The rest have been bottled up in their barracks, food supplies interrupted, water and electricity cut off. "You can imagine how they feel," says Dr Bebler with some pleasure, "no water for

Slovenia, despite its successes, is building up its defences and even suspects Croatia of a deal with Belgrade, Roger Boyes reports

shaving, living in the dark." But these tactics may be backfiring on the Slovenes. Its army is still a partisan force with a weak chain of command. Rural groups are making their own decisions, sometimes harassing the Yugoslav army as it tries to withdraw into barracks, and it is this behaviour which is infuriating the high command, now ready to hit hard at the Slovenes to protect Yugoslav soldiers.

Fighter-bombers that were strafing the Slovenes near Krsko nuclear power station yesterday were trying to free their armoured columns, which had been surrounded by partisans.

But perhaps, they say in Ljubljana, it was something more — a softening-up before the second assault meant to bring Slovenia to its knees. It is still not clear whether this is the aim of the leadership in Belgrade, but the army is certainly in a mood for conflict. Dr Bebler said: "If it was left to the military alone, there is a 90 per cent chance of a second strike against us."

But Yugoslav military units need first to restore their strength, hence suspicion that helicopters supposedly bringing medicine to besieged troops are bringing more soldiers. "They could be ready for an attack in

one or two weeks," says Dr Bebler. "This time, maybe, they will use six dozen more tanks brought in through Croatia."

Janez Jansa, the Slovene defence minister, surrounded by army bodyguards, said troops could also be brought in along Slovenia's 25 miles of coastline and that marine defences were being stepped up. But Dr Bebler believes that the sea lanes are too narrow and the border with Italy too close for such an assault.

The Slovenes have become deeply suspicious that the Croatian leadership has struck some form of deal either with the federal prime minister, Ante Markovic, or with the army high command. Why else is the army being given access to Slovenia over Croatian terrain? "Our neighbours are behaving illogically," the defence minister said

yesterday. The air attacks against Slovenia and the reconnaissance flights over strategic installations all set off from air bases in Croatia. Some Croats, out of solidarity with the Slovenes, have been blocking tank transport, but the Zagreb government has confined itself to calling on Croats to ignore the call-up or leave army units in Slovenia. Croatian officials say they have little choice but Slovenes believe they are playing a game at their expense.

A sober look at Slovenia's military potential shows that it would not stand much of a chance against a massive attack. At the heart of its army there are only about 300 professional soldiers, with 30,000 trained men — carpenters, bus drivers and dentists in normal times — and a reserve pool of 78,000. The Slovenes have light armament,

rocket-launched grenades and anti-tank weapons. In the past two days they have captured a number of Yugoslav army tanks and armoured personnel carriers. The partisans have put Slovene stickers on top of the Yugoslav red star and claimed the vehicles as their own. But they are helpless against air bombardment.

The defence strategy worked out by Dr Bebler — "obstruct the enemy, exhaust it, avoid direct conflict" — needs a large dose of luck. It gambles above all on a rapid diplomatic intervention from the West to stop the fighting on Slovene terms.

Hopes that the federal government will be able to restrain the army fade by the day. There are three dominant groups in the high command — Serbs from Serbia, Serbs who originally came from Croatia or Bosnia, and

those of mixed race who consider themselves Yugoslav. According to Dr Bebler, these groups account for 103 out of 151 generals. Those drawn from the Serbian minorities form a hardline core, many lost their families to Croat Ustashi in the war and cannot contemplate the idea of Croatia's independence.

The war against Slovenia is thus being waged with a secret political agenda. How to slow down Croatian independence, how to extract further guarantees for the Serbian minority there, how to destabilise the leadership of the Croatian president, Franjo Tudjman? These are the political considerations of the Serbian factions in the army. Crashing Slovenia would, from their point of view, send a useful message to the Croats and reduce their room for negotiation.

## Croats fear the fighting will cross their border

FROM PHILIP JACOBSON ON THE CROATIA-SLOVENIA BORDER

YUGOSLAV federal army tanks were rushed from bases near Zagreb, the Croatian capital, to reinforce units under attack in Slovenia yesterday, bringing closer the spectre of widespread fighting engulfing Croatia as well. Yugoslav fighter aircraft were also using Zagreb airport to refuel and take on ammunition after flying supporting sorties over the main combat zone near the town of Metlika.

As the renewed conflict spread to other areas of Slovenia, the hard-pressed government of Croatia denounced the involvement of federal forces stationed on its territory and said that any attack on its own militia units would be treated as an act of aggression.

There have already been instances of Croatia's troops blocking the federal army's advance, a senior official said, adding: "We are confident we can continue to oppose them effectively." But, with federal commanders now apparently intent on conducting an orderly withdrawal from Slovenia, the risk of hostilities flaring up on the Croatian side of the border has been increased significantly.

In the cloudless sky over the wooded slopes around Metlika yesterday, a Yugoslav-made Orao fighter coming in low to fire rockets and strafing Slovene positions graphically underlined the extent of the increase in the conflict. As automatic weapons intermittently cracked, the air strikes left clouds of dust billowing over the treetops.

From the hazy details available, it appeared that a federal unit preparing to pull back to its base had tried to break

through an encircling ring of Slovene militia forces. Although it was impossible to estimate casualties on the spot, clashes at such close range, combined with heavy air attacks, would almost certainly be more bloody than anything previously experienced in this confrontation.

As the fighting continued, Croat forces between the border and Zagreb were in a state of high alert, with small squads taking up positions around bridges and important road junctions. For the first time we saw rocket launchers loaded and prepared for action, while heavy lorries full of sand and gravel were being parked for use as emergency roadblocks.

Although no attempt was made to prevent a column of 12 to 15 army tanks grinding towards Slovenia from their base just outside Zagreb yesterday, this must test the Croatian government's tolerance of federal troop movements. At a press conference in Zagreb, officials accused the army of breaking the terms of the agreement that was supposed to produce a ceasefire. They described the federal government's sudden closure of Zagreb airport to civilian traffic yesterday as an illegal act.

Slovenia's apparent appetite for combat worries the Croats, who point out that only a fraction of the firepower available to the federal forces has so far been deployed. If the tanks are ordered to use their cannons and the air force is given a free hand, civilian casualties would mount very rapidly.

Leading article, page 15



On the defensive: Yugoslav soldiers running to take up positions during a battle with Slovene militiamen at Brezica, near the Croatia-Slovenia border

## Army alleges dirty war

By DESSA TREVISAN IN BELGRADE AND MICHAEL BINYON

THE Yugoslav federal army yesterday accused Slovene territorial units of conducting a dirty war without any restraints or restrictions.

General Marko Negovanovic, said to be chief of army counter-intelligence, said that Slovene defence units had attacked in a "brutal and treacherous way", just as troops in Mokrice were moving back to their barracks in Croatia. He said that when the federal government ordered troops to secure the frontiers "we were not going to war, nor were we prepared for it". He added: "We were merely

carrying out the order and we did not expect to be treated as an occupation force."

His remarks were a response to widespread criticism of the army's tactics and lack of preparedness. The federal army was taken by surprise and tanks were sent in without infantry support, making 18-year-old recruits easy prey to a well-trained and motivated Slovene defence.

The general insisted that, since the war was being waged against the federal army and the Yugoslav state, the military response must now be adequate.

## Genscher keeps talks going

FROM IAN MURRAY IN BONN

HANS-DIETRICH Genscher, the German foreign minister, yesterday cancelled a trip to the Slovene capital, Ljubljana, because of the upsurge in fighting in the embattled Yugoslav republic.

Herr Genscher instead had talks with Milan Kucan, the Slovene president, at Villach in Austria, and today the foreign minister will set out proposals for transforming Yugoslavia into a loose association of states when he chairs a meeting in Prague today of the new crisis management council of the Conference on

Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE).

Herr Genscher is taking the lead in his capacity as chairman of the council, which has been asked by Austria to act as mediator. Under procedures agreed by foreign ministers from the 35 CSCE countries two weeks ago, emergency sessions can be called to consult on peaceful ways of settling disputes which threaten European security. The German foreign minister began a fact-finding mission with a visit to Belgrade on Monday.

Mr Kucan said that at his meeting yesterday he had explained that "the jug which has been broken by tanks can never be stuck together again". The Slovene decision to declare independence was irrevocable, he said, and the three-month moratorium in its introduction agreed with the EC was no more than a period to allow this position to be understood properly. He said that the most crucial task now was to impede the despotism of the Yugoslav army, which was no longer under any control.

## Austrians accused of aiding the rebels

By MICHAEL BINYON  
DIPLOMACY EDITOR

AN EMERGENCY meeting on Yugoslavia of the Vienna-based conflict prevention centre broke up in disarray yesterday after Yugoslavia failed to agree with the 34 other members on a proposal to send observers to monitor troop withdrawals. The 35 European and North American countries of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe will meet again today in emergency session in Prague to discuss the impasse.

In a string of angry exchanges, Yugoslavia accused Austria at the Vienna meeting of supporting secessionist Slovenia by political means, propaganda and weapons supplies. The Austrian delegate called the charge absurd, and rejected as "ridiculous" Yugoslavia's claim that 1,190 federal troops and 300 police had been deployed in Slovenia and Croatia. Austria said 20,000 troops were in the republics.

The two countries also argued over weapons exports, with the Yugoslavs saying private Austrian companies had exported weapons to the breakaway republics in February and the Austrians denying this while promising to look into the matter. The meeting to investigate "unusual and unscheduled military activities" was called by Austria after it accused Yugoslavia of violating its airspace several times.

The European Community called for an immediate halt to hostilities by all parties, and the return to their barracks of relevant units of the Yugoslav army and the territorial defence forces in Yugoslavia. Vladimir Pavicovic, representing the federal government, said this was already happening. The 35 did not recommend any action beyond the compromise brokered by the EC troika of foreign ministers.

## Shevardnadze moves to isolate Communist party hardliners

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

THE Movement for Democratic Reform, a reformist political grouping masterminded by Eduard Shevardnadze, the former Soviet foreign minister, and eight other leading liberal politicians, was formally launched at a press conference here yesterday.

On the surface, the movement represents the latest, and most substantial, attempt by reformists to join forces against the conservatives in the Communist party and government establishment. Its ideals are very broad, embracing parliamentary democracy, economic and political freedom and renunciation of all extremism, but the timing is right. Boris Yeltsin's first-round win in the Russian presidential elections showed opinion in the biggest Soviet republic running decisively for change.

The first attempt to create a cohesive reform group inside the Communist party failed. The Democratic Platform, established early last year, set out to take the party in a reformist direction or, failing that, to force a split. At last summer's party congress, President Gorbachev held the party together and the Democratic Platform was divided.

This spring, liberal members of the Russian Communist party launched a new inner-party group, Communists for Democracy, under the leadership of Colonel Aleksandr Rutskoi, one of the signatories of this week's reform movement and

steering committee to be set up to pursue "democratic development". Like the Democratic Platform, an equivalent group was formed in the military. Colonel Rutskoi is now Mr Yeltsin's vice-president.

The relationship between Mr Shevardnadze's movement and the Communist party is intriguing. The new group appears to present Mr Gorbachev with the choice of remaining head of a conservative-dominated party or leaving the party altogether, despite his repeated insistence that he is, and will remain, a communist. Statements by Vitali Ignatenko, Mr Gorbachev's spokesman, who said yesterday's announcement was "not unexpected", suggested however, that the Soviet leader not only approves the new formation, but was intimately involved in its creation.

The first signature on this



week's appeal is that of Arkadi Volsky, a close aide of Mr Gorbachev in the party apparatus. Mr Volsky, who keeps so much in the background as to be all but invisible, has now officially left the party apparatus and holds the chair of the deceptively named Scientific and Industrial Association. He is a crucial figure behind centrally sponsored initiatives in the areas of small business, privatisation and entrepreneurship.

The hallmarks of Mr Gorbachev's involvement are apparent in many aspects of the new movement. First, it is intended as an all-union movement at a time when the Communist party is splitting willy-nilly into republic-based parties. Mr Gorbachev has always argued for the sanctity of the union. Second, it sets great store by the broadly reformist consensus Mr Gorbachev has always favoured.

Third, Georgi Shakhov, one of President Gorbachev's senior aides, recently that the only way a real multi-party system could be created was by the Soviet Union Communist party.

membership of the Communist party. Mr Ignatenko emphasised yesterday that the new movement was "not in any way confrontational", and elaborated that it did not oblige anyone to leave any other party.

Delaying the proposed creation of a party until the steering committee has organised a national conference of all democratic groups in September has given Mr Gorbachev three months in which to see how the group progresses.

Should the new movement attract widespread support inside the Communist party, the Soviet leader could use it to subjugate the hardline force them out altogether. If he can't, he can't be



## EC bonus for travel allowed



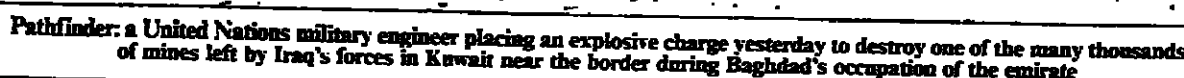


# Lebanese troops rout PLO

THE Lebanese army yesterday drove guerrillas of the Palestine Liberation Organisation out of hills in southern Lebanon and into two refugee camps in house-to-house fighting that killed 18 people and wounded 60, a military statement said.

About 9,000 soldiers, supported by artillery and rockets, swept through three villages overlooking Ein el-Hitweh and Miyeh Miyeh camps that were the last remaining PLO stronghold in Lebanon, 25 miles south of Beirut. Michel Murr, the Lebanese defence minister, said he would not allow the army to enter the camps. The PLO had until September to lay down its arms.

Thousands of PLO fighters retreated from the villages, leaving behind tonnes of ammunition and heavy weaponry, witnesses said. They withdrew into the camps, erecting earth barricades and digging ditches around them. Mr Murr said that around 200 Palestinian fighters were arrested. First reports said the army lost two officers, with 13 soldiers wounded, while 16 Palestinians were killed and 47 injured.



FROM AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
IN CAIRO

**HUMAN** rights violations increased last year as a direct result of the Gulf war, crushing the signs of improvement that emerged in 1989, the Arab Organisation of Human Rights said in its annual report. Muhammad Fayezi, its secretary-general, said the "long list of human rights abuses committed by the Iraqi

occupation authorities in Kuwait" fell into three categories and could be considered as war crimes. The worst violations happened at the start of the occupation last August, and again at the end of February, when the Iraqis began to lose control of the emirate as the allies advanced. The invasion of Kuwait also triggered the largest wave of expulsions and migrations in the modern history of

the region. But not all the alleged human rights abuses were linked to the Gulf conflict. The report spoke of "large-scale violations" in Iraq, Sudan, Morocco and Mauritania, as well as in the Israeli-occupied territories. Only seven out of 20 Arab countries allowed human rights groups to operate — Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Yemen, Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia.

THE British government will give full support to the United States if Washington decides to mount a military strike on Iraqi nuclear facilities which escaped allied bombing during the war earlier this year, according to defence sources yesterday. However, any attack is likely to be purely an American operation.

The United States has assembled a whole range of weapons systems in the Gulf area which could be used to destroy underground bunkers believed to be concealing President Saddam Hussein's secret nuclear weapons-building programme.

The Americans will be confident of making a better job of destroying Iraq's nuclear facilities the second time round because of the information provided by the Iraqi scientist who defected in May. His detailed briefing on the details of the nuclear sites will enable the Americans to mount an attack with a more accurate, laser-guided missile.

Whether inside have been destroyed as well," he said.

However, any operation that involves ground forces would be highly risky and less likely to meet with the approval of all five permanent members of the UN Security Council. Britain and the other permanent members are being consulted on the possible options.

Assuming the defector has correctly listed all the key facilities, the Americans would turn to weapons systems that provide guaranteed accuracy and pinpoint impact. The two principal weapons are the 5,000lb GBU28 "bunker buster" bomb which American developed towards

reasonable chance of success. Under the ceasefire resolution, Iraq said it had only 24 nuclear sites, 18 of which were destroyed in the war. The UN sanctions committee said it had collected evidence indicating there were several more sites not disclosed by Iraq. But the Iraqi defector filled in an even more alarming picture.

Some military experts say that an operation involving substantial ground forces would be needed to ensure

the developed "towns" at the end of the Gulf war, and the Tomahawk missile.

The GBU28 is 186 cm long, and 8 in diameter, with 450 lb of high explosive. This enormous bomb is capable of penetrating thick concrete. In a test, it was fired through a 22-ft slab of concrete and continued on for half a mile. Two of these bombs were used in the latter stages of the war with Iraq to break through a military command bunker.

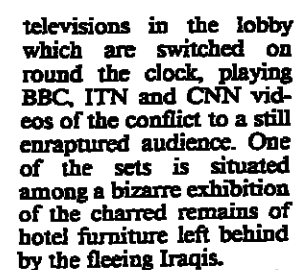
The GBU28 can be carried by the F111 bomber and the F15

## Suspicion rules amid the ruins

**M**ore than four months after the liberation of Kuwait, most rooms at the £124-a-night Kuwait International, the main foreign business hotel, are still without the locks that were wrecked by ransacking Iraqis or by explosions which shook the hotel.

The failure to effect this most basic of repairs (guests have only closets with padlocks—no door locks when the room is unoccupied) is symbolic of the failure of the Kuwaitis to follow through on the amazingly speedy restoration of their basic infrastructure carried out by allied military specialists.

**B**usinessmen were widely praised as being fast off the mark in the chase for postwar con-



Extensive concrete anti-air bomb defences are still being installed outside the hotel under cover of darkness and then painted bright blue in an attempt to disguise their purpose. Internal security remains precarious, with nightly shooting incidents reported from those districts where most remaining non-Kuwaitis are gathered.

The high prices and deliberate slowdown in the issuing of visas has cut the international press corps from 1,200 in March to fewer than 20. American reporters are regarded with particular suspicion by the ministry of information and sometimes upgraded to "traitors".

Kuwait officials appear shocked by the recent spate of reports about human rights abuses by the restored government, unable to see them as anything other than further evidence of a fifth column still determined to see Kuwait become Iraq's 19th province. A cartoon in the state-controlled *al-Fajr al-*

*Jadeed*, one of three daily newspapers, showed an Iraqi official offering sums of money to American journalists, clearly implying it was payment for their negative dispatches.

The ministry, in which a daughter of the Crown Prince is a prominent employee, recently dismissed all its volunteer guides for foreign journalists and cut off access to most ministers. "The government does not like American journalists," one of the dismissed volunteers explained. "It would prefer to see them all leave."

**B**ritish ministers and businessmen were widely praised as being fast off the mark in the chase for postwar contracts, but in recent weeks they have been overtaken by the Americans. Some 100 American manufacturers have just ended the first postwar trade show, in which they pushed everything from peanut butter to vacuum cleaners

Although John Major was an early visitor to liberated Kuwait, there is little in the emirate to help his efforts to shake off the shadow of his predecessor. Mrs Thatcher's photo is still given equal prominence with his own in the seafaring British embassy, where there is a frantic demand for copies of it but none for those of Mr Major.

Small armies of foreign workers have now succeeded in erasing many of the reminders of Iraq's occupation, including most of the pro-Iraq graffiti. But the twisted wreckage of hundreds of escaping armed Iraqi vehicles bombed in the Mithla Pass on the road north from Kuwait City still remain as the most potent reminder of the war. There the graffiti on the side of wrecked tanks and trucks have been allowed to remain. "Hi Denise. I love you," claims one message in giant white letters, while another, obviously aimed at the United States, declares: "Yes. We are staying in this hell. Don't forget us."

The post-liberation euphoria has gone and so has the temporary access to alcohol allowed by the Saudis, who have never said even lip service to Islamic restrictions on it. One Kuwaiti psychologist claimed there had been a 50 per cent increase in the number of Kuwaiti alcoholics as a result. At the international airport visitors are politely quizzed as to whether their luggage contains alcohol, which is then usually politely removed.

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THEATRE

# Raise the living above the dead

The playwright David Edgar recently observed one of the most depressing aspects of contemporary British theatre: "For the first time since 1936 there is a whole generation of talented young British directors who affect little or no attachment to the production of new work. Emerging RSC stars such as Phyllida Lloyd declare themselves only interested in the classics... The National's Deborah Warner is well-known for her dismissal of contemporary plays and her hostility to the idea of a living writer in the rehearsal room." (Quoted in *The Independent*, May 8).

The phenomenon may be new for Britain, but it is old hat on mainland Europe and Scandinavia. This new generation of directors have, like Jonathan Miller, joined the ranks of a fearsome breed of European directors who could be called The Necrophiliacs — those who prefer to practise strange acts on the dead without fear of protest. Living writers, vibrant with intellectual energies of their own, answer back with matching, often more vivid theatrical imaginations. Most troublesome!

The director's vain usurpation of the theatre's means of production in those countries has resulted in a dearth of playwrights. Small wonder. The novelist Margaret Drabble once said to me: "No, I don't ever want to write plays. Put in a stage direction for a certain kind of yellow hat to be worn, one that's absolutely representative of the character's personality, and you can be sure they'll get the wrong bloody colour if they bother to get a hat at all because the actress is allergic to things on her head or something! Give me prose every time where the reader reads exactly what I've written, whether I'm making mistakes or not... at least they're my mistakes."

Blight, however, seems to have overtaken at least the French branch of the Necrophiliac family. At a festival in Parma four years ago, where I was giving a reading, I heard a lecture by the departing head of the Comédie Française.



**Arnold Wesker (left) argues that leading British directors are more interested in manipulating the classics than in staging new work**

"We have lost our way," he said. "The productions of the major French directors are all beginning to look like each other." That is what happens when, to change to less salacious imagery, the tail wags the dog.

Accepted procedure decrees that we will not see on stage what the creative writer wants to write, but what the interpretative director considers is the fulfilment of his or her taste. This is a double-edged exercise. If the director's taste is exquisite and generous fine. The danger is that most directors are concerned to offer a public not what they consider the public should experience but the kind of plays that will give them an opportunity to shine.

This is called opportunism. The theatre, they seem to think, exists for their greater glory. Herein lies the threat to the playwright, leaving him, as John Osborne wrote in a letter to *The Times* (April 18) "waiting in the servant's hall for a summons that may or may not come, for a commitment forgotten as soon as made". The dog waiting to be summoned by its tail.

Being artistic director of the Royal Shakespeare Company, the National Theatre or the Royal Court is not easy. These are the hottest seats in town. But the question must be asked, why are these directors chosen? For their talent, their taste, their judgement — or all three? And is the distinction between those qualities fully understood? A director may have technical skills, possess a visual and choreographic talent, but that does not necessarily imply judgement or taste.

Nor are taste and judgement the same thing. If I were the artistic director of a theatre, and a new Osborne play was put on my desk, I would judge it my responsibility to

offer that play to the public regardless of my personal view. Similarly with any other writer of proven track record. There reaches a point at which the writer becomes a kind of property of the public, beyond the jurisdiction of the artistic director. Who am I, I would have argued, to stand between a nation's playwright and his public?

But let us accept that the gates of the theatre must be guarded by directors, that the public must be protected by these directors' tastes, that the track record of the playwright counts for nothing, and that, in the conflict between the director's taste and the writer's taste, the director's taste must always be deemed correct, to be supported and financed.

Where then is the forum in which the writer can argue his case? It is not easy to lift plays off the page. Even experienced directors cannot always identify the structure, the rhythms, the tension created in the silence between two lines that a conscientious playwright has woven into the fabric. Time and again I have experienced a director exclaiming in rehearsal of a play he has accepted to direct: "Ah, that's what you meant!"

Adrian Noble and his RSC colleagues are giving generous consideration to my play *Slylock* for their next season. I wrote to him offering to deliver to his company a lecture that I have given around the world, on why and how I wrote the play.

Even if the RSC finally decided not to produce *Slylock* they would have given the playwright a forum in which to present his case, and provided a Shakespearean company with a polemic relating to one of Shakespeare's most controversial plays. Surely such a lecture



Annie Wobler: staged here in 1984, unlike Wesker's latest plays which "will have their premieres abroad"

would help to animate the intellectual life of the company?

Noble replied with courtesy and friendliness, apologising for being churlish in not taking up my offer, saying he did not think it was necessary, and explaining that perhaps I was not clear "as to how plays are now chosen here at the RSC". He had missed the point.

When Kenneth Tynan was literary editor of the *National Theatre* and was championing Tom Stoppard's *Jumpers*, and Laurence Olivier was unable to see the play's virtues, Tynan proposed that Stoppard come in and read it to them. An imaginative gesture: the playwright was offered a forum. It worked. The *National Theatre* then

went ahead and staged the play. I have many plays waiting for homes on the London stage. Three will have their world premieres abroad. I make no claims for them as masterpieces, but they are at least bold, theatrical and engaging. The Necrophiliacs have their forum. Where is the forum for the living?

BRIEFING

## Fringe launched

THAT monstrous bandwagon known as the Edinburgh Festival Fringe is rolling again. Its organisers admit that this August's Fringe will have shrunk slightly from last year's record size. But the newly-published Fringe programme still lists 9,170 performances in 144 venues by 510 companies from 25 nations. Among those performances are no fewer than 210 premieres of plays new to Britain. Participants include the Rumanian actor/politician Ion Caramitru, the popular south London entrepreneur Cynthia Payne and an ensemble of balalaika players from Veronezh. Programmes available from the Fringe Office, 180 High Street, Edinburgh EH1 1QS.

## Hot property

SIX years after being first mooted, a film version of David Mamet's Pulitzer Prize-winning play *Glen Gary Glen Ross* is due to go before the cameras in New York next month. Bruce Willis and Robert De Niro were among the stars originally mentioned, but the main roles have gone to Alec Baldwin, Al Pacino and Jack Lemmon; the director is James Foley. Appropriately for a play about a real-estate swindle, the delay was partly caused by a recession in America's housing market: the executive producer, Stanley Zupnik, is a real-estate broker.

## Haydn seat

NOT quite everything in Vienna celebrates the Mozart bicentenary this year. Haydn's music will be in the limelight when the Viennese palace of his patron, Prince Esterházy, is opened to the public for the first time since the days of the composer. After Prince Paul Esterházy's death last year, the palace was sold to an Austrian bank, which has made it available for festival concerts. From July to September, the little 190-seater music room will ring once more to the sounds of Haydn's chamber music.

## Last chance...

WELSH National Opera's *Rigoletto* is a musical triumph, thanks to the urgent and beautiful sounds Carlo Rizzi gets from the orchestra, and also to a cast led by Richard Paul Fink in the title role. Last performance this season is on Friday at the Mayflower Theatre, Southampton (0703 333001).

# Hall will play if the house holds good

**Benedict Nightingale reports on the growing speculation about the West End home of the Peter Hall Company**



Archer: "enthusiastic and supportive throughout"

Uncertainty over Jeffrey Archer's plans for his Playhouse theatre has cast a cloud over the Peter Hall Company, which is hoping to establish a permanent West End home in Northumberland Avenue. Reports that the novelist was planning to sell the theatre, which he acquired in 1988, have been described as "premature" by Lee Menzies, managing director of the Playhouse and executive producer of the Peter Hall Company. Nevertheless, the rumours have raised questions about the future activities of the Peter Hall Company, which has staged two productions at the theatre so far this year.

Hall told *The Times* that any possible change of ownership at the Playhouse would not necessarily mean a move for his company. The director hopes that it will remain as tenants under any new owner. Archer, who was contacted in Japan, had no comment to make on the reports. But Hall described as "absolute nonsense" newspaper speculation that the Peter Hall Company had lost the Playhouse £400,000, and this figure was also dismissed by Menzies. Hall said financing for his two

opening productions had come not from the Playhouse, but from the philanthropist and former theatrical agent, George Borwick.

Hall's first production, *Twelfth Night*, played to 70 per cent capacity and lost £100,000. But his current production, Tennessee Williams's *The Rose Tattoo*, seems likely to make a healthy profit, despite costing £250,000 to stage. Menzies also agreed that *The Rose Tattoo*, starring Julie Walters, had been a "smash hit". It

may transfer to another theatre before Hall's next production, Stephen Poliakoff's *Sienna Red*, opens at the Playhouse in the autumn.

Hall also rejected reports of a rift with Archer. The novelist had, he said, "been marvellously enthusiastic and supportive throughout". Sir Peter has been seeking a home for his company since the collapse two years ago of plans to house it permanently at the Haymarket Theatre, where he had presented Vanessa Redgrave in Ten-

nessee Williams's *Orpheus Descending*. He has staged productions of *The Merchant of Venice* and Ibsen's *The Wild Duck* at the Phoenix, and a revival of Pinter's *The Homecoming* at the Comedy.

"But if we are to build up an audience we need to establish one theatre as our own," said Hall. "The Playhouse has 820 seats, which is the right size. It has splendid acoustics and is in a rising area. We do not want to move."

Hall's plans for the theatre include a play about Goering (Romulus Linney's *The Inheritance*), with Klaus-Maria Brandauer, and a revival of Molière's *Tartuffe* "with a very substantial star".



Hall: no desire to move away from the Playhouse

OPERA: ITALY

# Prima donnas sold by the eight

**William Ward watches a bizarre expansion in the packaging of opera singers**

As if three tenors were not enough, now we have eight sopranos. And in the rush to cash in on opera's new-found showbiz credibility, even bigger singing sensations are being promised in Italy.

Last summer brought the formation of the world's first opera supergroup. The Pavarotti/Carreras/Domingo concert at the Baths of Caracalla in Rome offered the super-market principle of the special offer: three for the price of one. This summer Italy is offering two opera supergroups, both by sopranos.

The first took place in Venice's Piazza San Marco last week, and gave real bumper value: eight for the price of one. With veteran soprano Regina Resnik acting as master of ceremonies, the supergroup even had a name: "Primadonna". That was in itself something of a poetic



Leader of the pack: impresario Bruno Tosi, with Regina Resnik and Raina Kabaivanska

licence; not everyone in this lyrical octet could claim the sobriquet as credibly as Renata Scotti and Raina Kabaivanska.

Although the concert stuck to a more rigidly operatic repertoire, it followed the Caracalla pattern by having each diva sing a couple of rounds of solo arias in turn, before all joined in the finale (the "Barcarolle" from Offenbach's *Les Contes d'Hoffmann*), which was almost a knees-up. All eight possess indisputable talents, yet it was diva-power, above all, that the clapperboard recorded.

Only rising stars Mariella Devia and Luciana Serra managed to hold their own against the moist night air rising from the Rio Grande. The other divas — Lucia Valentini Terrani, Katia Ricciarelli, Daniela Dessi and Cecilia Gasdia — did their best, aided by one of Italy's finest conductors.

Daniel Oren, with the reliable La Fenice Orchestra. Backstage eyewitnesses recounted an inordinate sense of inter-diva rivalry, which the strictly alphabetical billing did little to alleviate.

The Italian media seem to have tired already of the phenomenon: few of the national papers deigned to review the event, while the all-important television coverage had to be offered to the marginal station TeleMonte-Carlo. The state network, RAI, was not attracted by the proceedings.

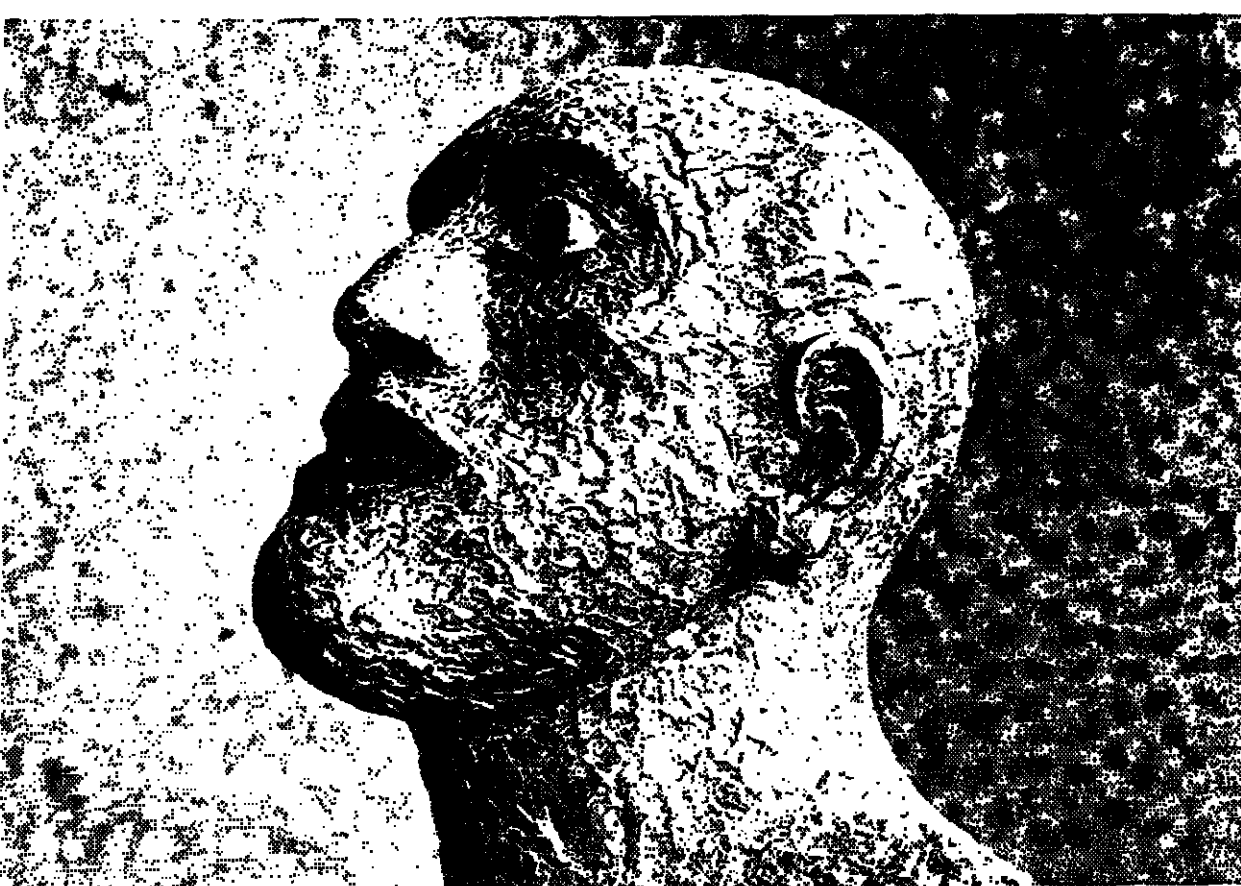
Even the reactions of the local Venetian press were telling. *Il Gazzettino di Venezia* entitled its review "Vera Protagonista della manifestazione era la magica cornice offerta da Piazza San Marco". To put it another way: Nice Place, Shame about the Legs. *La Nuova Venezia* noted that "there weren't as many VIPs there as were expected", adding in a tone of breathless confidentiality that impresario Bruno Tosi, following the

"triumphant Venice debut" of his brainchild, now plans to take "Primadonna" on the road, for a European tour.

The battle of the sopranos inevitably leads to the battle of the opera houses. Gian Paolo Cresci, who tried last summer to have an Italian pop singer slipped in between the three tenors, has now been promoted to *soubrette* of the Rome Opera House. Apart from wanting to have a regular spot for pop at the Rome Opera, he too has a macro-concert in mind later this month. However, unlike the better organised Tosi in Venice, he cannot decide on what day or when to hold it, or who is going to star in it.

Names such as Elisabeth Schwarzkopf, Leontyne Price, Beverly Sills, Montserrat Caballé, Christa Ludwig and Marilyn Horne are mentioned, although at my requests for firm information, the head of Rome Opera's press office yelled down the phone: "Why the hell can't *The Times* wait until nearer the day?"

## ANNOUNCING THE ARRIVAL OF AN AWARD AT THE NATIONAL RAILWAY MUSEUM, YORK.



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**ARTS REVIEWS, PAGE 18**  
Theatre, Rock and Recitals



## Woodrow Wyatt

John Major's growing assurance brings the Tories new hope

Hugh Gaitskell told me "I'd give anything to be in Number Ten if it were for only an hour. It would be worth it just for the achievement." The mysterious illness which struck him down at 56 in 1963 cruelly snatched from him the victory which would have been his the following year.

Politicians may sincerely give their best for their country, but "Fame is the spur that the clear spirit doth raise... To scorn delights and live laborious days." When they reach the pinnacle of power as prime minister, three things can happen. They develop capacities which surprise everyone, or they do not rise much, if at all, above their former selves; or else their abilities appear to dwindle and they disappoint.

Unprepared mentally for a job he could not have contemplated having for another two or three years, Mr Major looked initially as if he might fall into the third category. Striving to show himself a strong leader with a distinctive approach of his own, while not departing from the general thrust of his predecessor, he was labelled a ditherer by enemies. He reacted tetchily to media criticisms and lacked an assured grip over his party and Mr Kinnock. All this was reflected in the sharp drop in support for the government in the opinion polls after the Major honeymoon.

But a transformation has been occurring. Mr Major has not wilted under the intense pressure of events at home and abroad, which rather have accelerated his learning curve. His fast maturing suggests the office he holds will enlarge him. Although he was worried that an intervention by Mrs Thatcher in last Wednesday's Commons debate on Europe would dangerously accentuate division in the Tory party, her speech and the support it attracted strengthened him at Luxembourg on Saturday.

I was sceptical of Mr Major's citizens' charter until Sunday, when I read his exposition of it in *The News of the World*. Its ideas are born of Mr Major's 13 years face-to-face with ordinary people as a Lambeth councillor. As I know from my own mail, people feel helpless against bureaucrats who seem neither to listen nor care. Private enterprise is forced to care by competition or (in the newly privatised utilities) by regulatory authorities with strong powers which they do not hesitate to use to protect consumers against unjustified price rises or poor services. Penalising those who provide public services unless they treat the public as paying customers instead of pawns could be a vote-winner.

Mr Major's continued insistence that some American and allied troops must be left in Iraq to protect Kurds and others against Saddam Hussein's tyranny, demonstrates that he is not a person who produces gimmicks for immediate popularity and abandons them when public concern cools. He now has greater stature in the Commons, and can hold his own internationally. His character is being revealed, and new strengths are emerging as they are needed.

Mr Major is said to be pleased that Mrs Thatcher will no longer be an MP after the next election. Her magic and the excitement she engenders will no longer make him seem a lesser mortal. But whether she is in the Commons or not, the signs are that Mr Major's growing assurance and the feebleness of his opponents — will bring him victory despite the government's present difficulties. There is also time for him to learn to display in public the charm and humour he shows in private. Meanwhile, the polls look good for him again.

As Docklands celebrates its 10th birthday, Marcus Binney argues that it needs corner shops and community spirit

## Now for some real people



Controversial Cascades: but where are the small businesses?

Docklands is the prime monument to the 1980s, a manifestation of the free-market ideals of Thatcherism and the entrepreneurial verve of Michael Heseltine. But today, for all the bravura of its creation, it is suffering dangerously from a crisis of confidence, particularly as City tenants are looking to Westminster for new office space, rather than east to Docklands.

Ten years ago, faced with local authorities hostile to the new government and with battles against the dockers and the print unions looming, Michael Heseltine decided to force the pace. He set up the London Docklands Development Corporation with special planning powers.

Docklands became Britain's largest building site. Thousands of new houses were constructed, and millions of square feet of high-tech offices created. London had seen nothing like it, in a single area, since the rebuilding after the Great Fire of 1666.

Pleas to preserve the 19th-century warehouses of St Katharine's Dock and London Wall were brushed aside, though the warehouse look would become popular for new penthouses.

Docklands, with its fast-track planning process, has undoubtedly produced a vast quantity of

junk building, but there is also some of the brightest and zaniest new architecture in Britain. John Outram's new pumping station on the Isle of Dogs is positively Babylonian in colour and ornament. The controversial Cascades introduces a new vocabulary to tower block design. Jeremy Dixon's gabled housing on the river ingeniously reawakens the traditional London terrace.

The best concentration of new building is to the southeast of Tower Bridge, along and behind Shad Thames. Here is a whole new quarter as exciting and distinctive as any in Europe, formed of a fine mix of restored warehouses and new buildings. Piers Gough has given the expressionism of the 1930s a new lease of life at China Wharf and the Circle. Julian Wickham (who won the backing of the Prince of Wales in a row over the colour of his new housing in Epping), has produced a superbly sculptural complex of apartments. David Mellor has opened a shop in a building by Michael Hopkins, architect of the new stand at Lord's. And Couran's imposing

conversion of Butler's Wharf stands beside the mighty Anchor Brewery, brilliantly adapted by Pollard Thomas Evans.

Yet for all its architectural innovation, Docklands has so far failed in two fundamental ways — in providing a transport infrastructure and in creating a sense

of community. It is hard to take an urban development seriously when its main public transport is a tin-pot train no larger than a shuttle between airport terminals. Similarly, Docklands Airport may be convenient for European businessmen wanting to spend a day in the City, but British

businessmen going to Europe start their journeys in the suburbs and continue to patronise Heathrow and Gatwick.

For all its shortcomings — whether run-down 19th-century terrace housing or appalling post-war high rises — the old East End was a place with a community spirit. But the community has had no access to most of the capital flooding into Docklands, nor any opportunity to participate in the explosion of commercial activity, except in minor ways such as office cleaning and taxi services.

So far, small businesses have virtually no place in the high-tech corporate world of Docklands. Yet it is the people who run the sandwich bars, the shoemakers and the discount stores who are vital to any enterprise culture. Cheap premises for them are as essential as luxury offices and apartments. Few ordinary families have bought Dockland apartments, and the barrier between new and old residents has grown as a result.

New quarters in cities work not simply because builders and

buyers invest in them, but because they become popular destinations. Parisians and tourists flood to La Defense, the new office precinct west of the Champs Elysée. How many Londoners or overseas visitors ever visit Docklands?

Canary Wharf may just provide this draw. It is the one place in London where a developer has had the chance to control the whole environment — roads, pavements, squares, tree planting and street lighting — in a way not seen since Nash. If it fails, the next ten years could see Docklands gradually becoming a ghost city like Mussolini's EUR suburb outside Rome.

What Docklands needs in the 1990s is a large injection of the caring philosophy of Mr Major, aimed not at just achieving an economic miracle, but at creating a place where everyone in Docklands can enjoy greater opportunities and an improved quality of life. The need is not just for office towers and shopping malls, but for railway arches, market stalls and thousands of flowering shrubs and trees to make it an area where anyone would like to live.

Marcus Binney is the new architectural correspondent of *The Times*.

## Western cash cannot buy peace

The Kremlin wants to exploit the civil war in Yugoslavia, but we should not be blackmailed, says Mary Dejevsky

The outbreak of civil war in Yugoslavia, which no manner of euphemism can now disguise, is proving a perverse sort of godsend for Moscow. With barely two weeks to go before President Gorbachev sets out for the Group of Seven summit in London, the Soviet leader can cite a vivid example of what he means when he says that the Soviet Union risks descent into turmoil. He can threaten that unless the West helps him, the mass of the Soviet Union, with all its nuclear weapons, may fall prey to anarchy.

Of course, he will couch these sentiments in diplomatic language to the point at which they are barely recognisable. Less inhibited Soviet political commentators, however, are already drawing an analogy between Yugoslavia and the Soviet Union, and they do not stop at warnings. One or two overtly blame the West for what has happened in Yugoslavia.

*Pravda* has accused "a number of Western politicians" of "pushing the leaders of Slovenia and Croatia to the extreme steps that now so alarm the world". The newspaper has also accused the West of applying double standards by supporting the unity of the Soviet Union while simultaneously supporting independence for the Baltic states.

Such warnings are directed primarily at the outside world. For the domestic Soviet audience, the military conflict in Yugoslavia presents a trickier problem. The armed clashes show not only that civil war can happen in Europe in the late 20th century — which many doubted — but that a federal government's desire to keep the country together in the face of nationalist and separatist passions can lead

to war. This may be a deterrent for some of the Soviet Union's aspiring separatists, but to others it is a promise and a model.

This may be why Soviet media coverage of the military action in Yugoslavia has been low-key. When it has said anything, the Soviet leadership has said that what is happening in Yugoslavia is a tragedy that could have been prevented if common sense — by which it means universal recognition of the primacy of the centre — had prevailed. The integrity of Yugoslavia must be preserved at all costs; unity is good and separation bad.

With the text of the new Union Treaty, which is supposed to keep together what remains of the Soviet Union not yet finalised, and at a time when President Gorbachev is facing up to the desire of no fewer than five of the country's 15 republics to secede, the purpose of the message is clear. But there is no reason for Western countries, and the Group of Seven in particular, to be drawn into doing Mr Gorbachev's job for him.

Whatever words he couches his address in, Mr Gorbachev will be arguing in London for a programme of "co-operation" to help integrate the Soviet Union into the modern world of international economics. Even the most radical of the economic programmes on his desk assumes that the West will find it cheaper and more convenient to help the Soviet Union before it falls into disarray, rather than afterwards.

To take Yugoslavia as a parallel in this respect, however, is a mistake. Western governments and banks have pumped billions of dollars into the ailing and apparently hopeless Yugoslav economy, and although this may have prevented it from turning



Low-key coverage: the Soviet leadership is anxious to dissuade its own citizens from following Slovenians into armed rebellion

back to the East, the money has not been much help to the Yugoslav economy, and it has not prevented civil war. If Mr Gorbachev cites Yugoslavia as the reason why the West should provide generous support for Moscow, the retort should be that it would not help keep the country together.

I f ample economic help does not avert civil war and the break-up of a reluctant federation, neither will political intervention by friends and neighbours. The bombing began in Slovenia only hours after the delegation of European Community foreign ministers believed it had stayed off trouble for at least three months. The ministers had applied all the classic conciliation procedures, talked to both par-

ties, restored a semblance of constitutional rule and imposed a cooling-off period. It did not work.

In Yugoslavia, as in the Soviet Union, it may be not only impossible but actually undesirable to try to keep together separate groups who, for whatever reason, do not want to stay together. In Yugoslavia the reasons are partly ethnic, partly economic and partly historical. In the past, these considerations were overridden by the strength of an external enemy and the parous state of the economy. Those concerns have now receded. Slovenia and Croatia have other priorities.

In the Soviet Union, all the same considerations apply, but there are two other factors. The Baltic states and Moldavia harbour deep-seated and fully jus-

tified grievances at being illegally annexed by Moscow, and all the republics suspect that the centre has grown fat while they have starved. No official statistics will persuade people convinced otherwise that continued membership of the Soviet Union is in their interest.

As yet, the only real fighting has been over internal borders in the southern republics of Armenia and Azerbaijan, and there is no sign of violence erupting elsewhere. Yet we should now ask how much longer it will be in the West's interest to have reluctant and unstable federations as neighbours, rather than a conglomeration of smaller states which might live peacefully together and subsequently link together in pursuit of new common interests. Supposedly sacro-

sanct national borders enshrined in the Helsinki Agreement were breached by German reunification, and it may be wiser to allow more changes than to have borders redrawn by violence.

President Gorbachev and others hold out the dire prospect of a Soviet Union breaking up in violence, and ask whether the West wants so vast a neighbour to be unstable, or whether it will help hold it together. This is not necessarily the choice. One lesson that Yugoslavia might teach is that discontented constituent republics should be allowed to seek their fortunes as they see fit, with international understanding and if appropriate, international mediation. It is when they are forced to remain in a federation which no longer works that the real trouble begins.

## ...and moreover ALAN COREN

You will recall — certainly if you have old Hackney Empire ticket-stubs among your souvenirs — that the great Billy Bennett used to describe himself as "Almost a Gentleman". It was his billing, and his act I cannot clearly remember that act now, but foggy I remember it as being concerned with whelks, spats, aitches, and how to enunciate in the company of Lady Mayoreses. He also had a funny walk, fashioned to indicate the legacy of several centuries of eugenic matrimony.

He was a big hit at the Empire. We fell about. Though we had no idea of what a gentleman was, the spectacle of what he patently wasn't brought the tear to the eye and embedded the helpless teeth in the stall in front. Forty years on, I can still taste the lacquer.

And forty years on, I am still no closer to knowing what a gentleman is, only to what he isn't. When, for example, poor old Trollope cries out in desperation: "I think the Duke of Omnium is a perfect gentleman. If he be not, then I am unable to describe one," what wobbles, willy-nilly, into my head is simply a vision of a more polished Billy Bennett, this time successfully controlling a knife-fil of peas while managing to belch silently into an aspidochelone without his monocle falling out.

Which brings me to trousers. Throughout my life, my trousers have never been gentlemen's. This, unlike many of the trousers, was perfectly fitting, in that throughout my life, I have never been a gentleman. What I have

been is a gent, sometimes a proper one (ask any cabdriver), but above all a natty one, because gents' trousers is what I have always worn. And they have always been similar, even down to the number they have been called Jax or Slix or Cruz, and they have had a pocket on either side and one on the hip, and they have come with their own free belt in natty gents' hosiery fastened by a buckle made of the kind of solid gold which doesn't come off provided you don't pick at it. That they were right for me was further indicated by labels which showed, in several colours, a gent like me walking about in them and looking flawlessly natty, sometimes with a dog. To remove this label, you had to gnaw at a plastic manacle until either it fell off, or your fillings fell out.

But last week, as I believe I have mentioned, was my birthday, and one of the presents my wife bought me was a pair of trousers. The first thing I saw when I unwrapped them was the label. It did not have a natty gent on it. It did not have a name with an x on it. It was not attached by a plastic hawser, but by a blue silken cord, and after I had untied it, I opened the tiny book which the label was and read that these trousers had been crafted by Gieves and Hawkes "to complement the wardrobe of an English Gentleman". At, more-over, Number 1 Savile Row, being taken in, let out, all that. Who knows, they may even stretch up a pocket or two to make me feel better, but it won't help. We all know that the main alteration will consist of shortening gentleman to gent.

vulgar, the Victorian equivalent of DOW! on the Roller, who am I, a mere gent, to say?

I looked at the trousers for some time. I may have trembled. Might it be that these were all that was required to make me, at last, a gentleman? I drew them on, and, yes, I entered a different world. That, however, I should not be able to remain there was immediately obvious: though they fitted perfectly at the waist and in the length, all the rest was, albeit very slightly, otherwise. For the gentleman, whatever he is, clearly has broader buttocks, longer thighs, shorter shins, thinner knees, plumper calves; these trousers may have been my size, but they were not my shape. Nor did they have a belt, and my own natty range would not fit the loops: what I needed to hold them up was, I imagine, an Old Etonian tie or, better yet, a hank of the silken rope from which a noble ancestor had dangled.

And what was I to do about the pockets? These trousers did not have three pockets, they had pockets everywhere, even the pockets had pockets. What for? Trout flies, snuff-boxes, monocles, foreign decorations, cartridges, heirlooms? How could I live up to them?

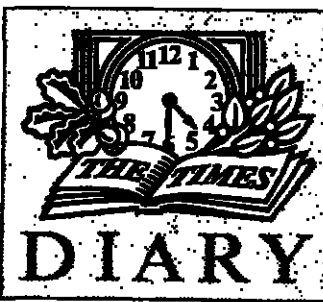
## Auntie's secret agonising

It was as secretive as electing a pope or the deliberations of an Old Bailey jury. Yesterday — on pain, perhaps, of being locked in a darkened room at Broadcasting House and forced to watch endless repeats of *Neighbours* — not one of the BBC's 13 governors would offer even an off-the-record whisper on the decision to re-appoint Michael Checkland as director-general for a further 12 months before John Birt takes over in 1993.

To throw reporters off the scent, the likes of P.D. James, Lord Barnett and Marmaduke Hussey staggered their arrival on Monday at Broadcasting House from 5.30pm onwards. All were assembled by 7.30pm in the oak-panelled boardroom, where a buffet supper was laid out. Security was tight: the waitresses were dismissed as soon as the silver salvers had been brought in. After the meeting, the governors were whisked away to spend the night in a nearby hotel.

What is known is that the split was originally 7-6 in favour of Checkland, barely a ringing vote of confidence, especially with both Hussey, the chairman and Lord Barnett, his deputy, backing Birt. Checkland's most vociferous supporters were Bill Jordan, leader of the engineering union, and Keith Oates, finance director of Marks & Spencer.

Birt has come a long way from his days at London Weekend Television, where he helped to create *Weekend World* with Peter Jay, who remains a close friend. The first programme featured Fiona Richmond, the actress who was better known for taking off her clothes than for her dramatic skills. "They interviewed her while she was lying on her back in bed," recalls one of the pro-



gramme's producers. "I cringe when I think of it. John was very proud of it, but I doubt he listed it among his finest achievements when he had his interview with the BBC." Birt's succession to the top job could also curtail one of his great pleasures. Most Friday lunchtimes he abandons Broadcasting House to play football for LWT. The BBC governors will surely put a stop to that when he becomes director-general.

Could that distinctive strain rising above the noisy independence celebrations in Slovenia really be bagpipes? David Grant and his family from the Orkneys have spent the past five months travelling around the world in a horse-drawn carriage. Come the declaration of independence, and they found themselves in Dravograd, a small village on the border with Austria. As the village organised a street party, the Orkadians, as the only foreigners present, were treated as guests of honour. Grant returned the compliment with a suitably nationalist offering on the pipes. The tune? "Scotland the Brave", of course.

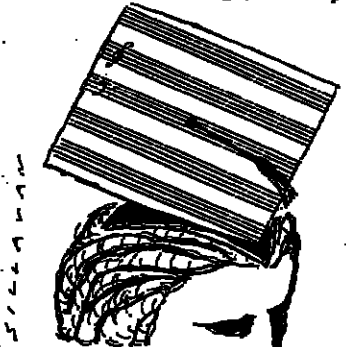
## Floreat power

Lord Charteris of Amisfield, the outgoing provost of Eton College, has been musing in the school's *Chronicle* about what he proposes to do in retirement when he hands over to Sir

Antony Acland this summer. "I would like to be a hippy artist," he declares, baffling masters and boys alike. But then such a calling is perhaps almost an Eton tradition after the unconventional Viscount Weymouth, whose eccentric daubings were displayed so prominently in the old Etonians' art exhibition as part of last year's 550th anniversary celebrations. Whatever he chooses to do, Charteris, who first arrived at Eton in 1926, will be greatly missed. He endeared himself to boys when he was appointed provost in 1978 by appearing heavily disguised in the boys' school play. Unfortunately the disguise was swiftly unmasked when Jessie, his golden Labrador, a present from the Queen, ran onto the stage behind him wagging an extravagantly affectionate tail.

## New York post

Dame Janet Baker is to be the new chancellor of York University. The 58-year-old diva, who retired from the stage four years ago, takes up



her appointment in November, reaffirming her long-standing connections with the city where she was brought up. The university awarded her an honorary degree in 1984. Dame Janet promises to introduce a touch of colour at the

official inauguration. "I see myself as a figurehead and so the university must dictate how it wants me to behave as chancellor," she says. "But I hope to bring to the ceremony some experience from my stage career. Especially with the newer universities, the ceremonial is an important part of building up a tradition on the campus."

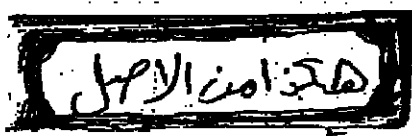
Accordingly, she has ordered new robes and conventional breaking headgear. "Academic hats are not at all flattering, so the university robe-makers have designed an Elizabethan-style beret with a wide brim which suits me much better. A large face like mine needs a framework," Dame Janet says.

Put it down to the weather or the recession, but the organisers of the Henley Royal Regatta, which starts today, report a 25 per cent drop in the number of corporate hospitality bookings. Those who love messing about on the river rather than impressing their bosses are delighted. Could it be that an our rather than a mobile phone is about to become the essential river accessory once again?

## Friction department

One of the most flamboyant figures in publishing has become the latest victim of the doldrums afflicting the book world. Tom Maschler resigned this week after 21 years as chairman of Jonathan Cape. The official announcement emphasised that he will retain his position on the board, and supportive words were offered by Anthony Cheetham, chief executive of Random Century, which swallowed Cape four years ago.

But publishing sources say the move shows that Cape is now no more than an imprint within the larger empire. Given that Maschler and Cheetham are both such strong characters, it is said, the move was inevitable sooner or later.







## YUGOSLAVIA BREAKS

Until the tanks rolled into Slovenia, the European Community had a policy of supporting the Yugoslav federal government against any republic that voted to secede. Both the Community and its individual members had invested much in the survival of Yugoslavia as an entity. That policy is now in ruins. Recognising this, the EC has made a creditable attempt to mediate between Slovenia and Croatia and the central government. But the ceasefire arranged by the EC "troika" has been barely a breathing space. As the politicians talked, the killing began again. The EC should not give up its mediation yet, but if it tries to do more it will burn its fingers.

The Community faces the prospect of a bloody war, perhaps a long one, on its own borders for the first time in its history. The challenge is in many ways greater than the Gulf war, which found the EC wanting. The Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, though commendably active in the dispute, has no leverage and is untried. America is distant and the Bush administration is, on this issue, confused and confusing. Soviet involvement is undesirable. At best there is a gap for a disinterested broker. The EC is the only one to which both sides will pay heed.

The chance of success is slim. The federal army in Slovenia is now commanded by a Serbian general. Though nominally under the political control of President Stipe Mesic, a Croat, the troops are answering either to the federal defence ministry or to their own generals, neither of whom Mr Mesic controls. If the EC is to be a broker, it must deal with those who are in power. It is at least as important to talk to the Serbs as to the federal government or the presidency.

The skirmishes of the past few days are as nothing to the carnage which could yet ensue. The army could mount a full-scale invasion of Slovenia through Croatia. The Croats would probably do more than just stone the passing troops: militias would try to block the way. If the Serbian minority in Croatia then made common cause with the Serb-dominated armed forces, there could

be programs. Yugoslavs remember what that means. Between 1941 and 1946, about a million people were killed in Yugoslavia, 90 per cent of them by other Yugoslavs.

Against this background, the EC must be clear that it will not be able to bring the two sides together if it is at the same time pursuing an agenda of its own, such as the reconstitution of Yugoslavia. Whether the EC recognises their sovereignty or not, Slovenia and Croatia are acting as autonomous states and must be dealt with as such. The Slovenian president, Milan Kucan, apparently told the German foreign minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher yesterday: "The broken jug cannot be put together again." He is right. A successful mediator cannot start by turning back the clock. The old Yugoslavia is no more, and even urging a "looser federation" will not help. No Slovenian or Croatian leader could now accept a federation. Their peoples would lynch them.

On the other hand, both republics are now much more disposed to listen patiently to what the EC might propose than they were a week ago. President Tudjman of Croatia has praised the Community's "new realism". If an EC-brokered ceasefire could be made to stick, the Slovenes and Croats may be persuaded to sit round a table with the other republics to discuss the redistribution of federal assets, the future of the common currency and other practical consequences of the collapse of Yugoslavia.

A federal solution, leaving control of the armed forces and borders in the hands of the republics, is not inconceivable. But the EC must not become so deeply involved that if such a confederation failed to materialise, it would be left without a credible policy for the second time. Even a minimal version of Yugoslavia becomes more remote with each day of fighting. The European Community cannot remake Yugoslavia, as the British and their allies once made it. For the present, its best long-term policy is to have no long-term policy. Until the sound of battle has died away, the Community should avoid more far-reaching intervention.

## MR MAJOR'S LAPDOG

The House of Lords will vote tonight on a government amendment to the Criminal Justice Bill, imposing a mandatory life sentence for murder. In April, an overwhelming majority of peers voted for an amendment that left sentencing on murder, as in all other crimes, to the discretion of judges. Wary of forcing another confrontation with the Commons so soon after rejecting the war crimes bill, the peers may be tempted to accept the government's amendment. They should be braver.

On the substance, the Lords are unquestionably right. Under the law as it stands, mercy killers have to receive the same sentence as IRA bombers — life. Judges have no discretion in sentencing for murder. Those murderers who are let out after a few years on the say so of a politician, for instance because their crime involved ending the life of a terminally ill relative, bring the average time served under a "life" sentence for murder to 11 years. If the home secretary really wanted life to mean life he would leave judges discretion to give life sentences to the most heinous of criminals, and not force them to lump the less serious along with the worst.

Under the present law the term "mandatory life sentence" is a misnomer. It is an unqualified sentence rather than a lifelong one, the quantity being determined by politicians, usually of later generations, for reasons which are not open and judicial. The proper people to decide such questions are judges, whose decisions can be openly challenged on appeal if they are wrong. Thus the issue between the Lords and the Commons is a constitutional one: the role of politicians versus the role of judges.

The Lords also passed amendments in April requiring judges to fix the penal term of the life sentence (in effect the minimum

term) in public, rather than home office ministers in secret; and for a judicial tribunal, instead of ministers again, to decide when a life-sentence prisoner can be released. Government ministers oppose these changes, saying in private — an extraordinary admission — that they do not trust the judges to impose the sentences the public wants.

Since the Parliament Act of 1911 the House of Lords has had the right to overturn any decision of the Commons not related to finance. The Commons can of course reverse a Lords' decision and eventually invoke the Parliament Act, as it did over the war crimes bill. Peers also observe a self-denying ordinance, called the Salisbury convention, whereby they will not vote against the principles of a government bill if it featured in the governing party's manifesto. They are on their strongest ground in standing firm against the Commons when the disagreement between the chambers might be considered constitutional.

The present bill passes all tests for the Lords to stand firm. It has nothing to do with money; it did not form part of the Tory manifesto in 1987; it is constitutional. Moreover, it covers a subject on which the Lords, in its capacity as a revising chamber, contains much expertise. Supporters of the Lords' position include the former Lord Chancellor, Lord Hailsham; the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Lane; and Lord Windlesham, former chairman of the Parole Board.

In 1909, Lloyd George declared that "the House of Lords is not the watchdog of the constitution. It is Mr Balfour's poodle." Peers should show tonight that they are not prepared to be treated as Mr Major's lapdog. And they should indeed exert themselves as watchdogs of the constitution.

## SAFEGUARDING ASYLUM

The prospect of 1,000 aliens a week sneaking their way round immigration control would once have been seized on by racial troublemakers. So far the unprecedented wave of would-be refugees seeking entry to Britain is causing more bureaucratic than social trouble. Civil servants cannot cope with the numbers. One explanation for the absence of public alarm is that the queue is of people seeking "political refugee" status. The British have a traditional sympathy for any refugee genuinely escaping "well-founded fear" of persecution.

Yesterday the home secretary, Kenneth Baker, announced measures to accelerate the handling of asylum cases to tackle the 50,000 backlog. But his withdrawal of their entitlement to legal aid, though it may smooth the bureaucratic process, will not improve public confidence in the sifting of genuine cases from bogus ones. Weakening the attention each case receives in order to deliver an earlier decision will only increase the risk of mistake.

Historically, public opinion has often been in two minds between sympathy for political refugees and the fear of "alien waves" of economic refugees swamping native Britons. The passage of the Aliens Act in 1905 — to control the numbers of Jews reaching Britain from Poland and Russia — was greeted with a joyous public firework display in London. The Aliens Act, with its overtones of antisemitism, showed the British in their most intolerant light — one MP proposed that banners should be erected on the shores of the Thames, announcing: "No rubbish to be shot here." Even in that

heated climate, however, public opinion insisted that the act should exempt those fleeing political or religious persecution.

The deliberate exploitation of that traditional sympathy is what has forced Mr Baker to hire 500 more civil servants to process outstanding claims. A visitor without entry documents who tells airport immigration control that he or she wants to enter Britain to work — an admitted "economic refugee" — can expect to be turned round in short order. One who asks for political asylum, on the other hand, has a claim an immigration officer is obliged to process, and may stay in Britain until a decision is made.

Word has spread in countries of origin of would-be immigrants that Western sympathy to asylum-seekers offers a loophole worth trying. Hence the number of applicants for asylum to Britain has risen sixfold to 30,000 last year and is rising still, though Britain's influx is scarcely a tenth of the total rattling the doors of the whole European Community. But since worldwide evidence suggests a generally improving pattern of human rights observance in the last five years, the pressure would appear to come from economic rather than political motives, aided by cheap flights.

Asylum is an honourable British tradition, not to be abandoned even under the present pressure. Mr Baker should prefer the risk of admitting an "economic refugee" by mistake to that of sending back to persecution, torture or death a single real refugee entitled to asylum. The legal advice he may need to prove his claim should not be denied.

## Self-help for regular army at bay

From Major General C. A. Ramsay  
Sir, The army faces grave issues. The immediate concern is for the combat arms and the regimental system they encompass. The Royal Armoured Corps is to lose over 50 per cent of its manpower and fighting capability; regiments remaining would have a meagre 37 tanks.

Eight regiments would disappear including six famous cavalry regiments — priceless assets. There would be no armoured formation home-based: flawed planning for the future. The infantry will be cut by a third and lose some 12 fine battalions. The total effect on the regimental system is drastic, and includes destruction of regiments formed since World War II.

The army should help itself in two ways: first it can introduce the regimental system to the Army Air Corps, which is now a combat arm and would benefit greatly, enfolded some of these priceless assets. This corps should join with the Royal Armoured Corps as it has similar roles and will compete for the same resources.

Second, the army should re-scale its regular manpower in favour of the combat arms and use increased territorial and reservist manpower in the supporting arms and services; this is realism, given likely future pressures and capabilities.

But there has been no defence review or evident world-wide threat-assessment. The so-called peace dividend is unquantified. Even taking the demise of the Warsaw Pact into account the proposals lack rationale and are too severe. The government would be wise to re-think. Failing this the Army Board has one option left — and that a collective one.

Yours faithfully,  
CHARLES RAMSAY,  
Bughrig,  
Coldstream, Berwickshire.  
July 2.

From Colonel R. K. May  
Sir, Most areas of the United Kingdom seldom see a regular soldier. Often the army is brought to the attention of the population only by the publicity given to the local county regiment by the local media. Take away the regiment and interest will evaporate with the consequent isolation of the army from the people on whom it depends for its support and recruits. People's perception of the army will be that portrayed in television dramas.

The local regimental museums also play an important role in

showing not only the past history of the county regiment, but also the present activities of the regular and territorial army, particularly to the young. Do away with the local connection, and the museums will merely depict history.

The local connection of the regiments can only be watered down so far. In the past, it has been the county regiments who have suffered cuts and amalgamations. This time, it is important that the county regiments should be the last infantry regiments to be cut, for on them the liaison with large areas of population depend.

Yours etc.,  
R. K. MAY (Curator),  
Kings Own Border Museum,  
Queen Mary's Tower,  
The Castle,  
Carlisle, Cumbria.

From Colonel John Egan  
Sir, If Wales were to lose the Royal Welch Fusiliers, despite their 300 years of tradition and service and an excellent current recruitment record, Welsh battalions would be reduced to two — the same number as provided, for example, by the Gurkhas. Is it not absurd that so considerable a part of the United Kingdom should have no more representation in the British army than Nepal?

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN EGAN,  
The Old Farmhouse,  
Pen-y-Bryn, Bangor, Gwynedd.  
June 30.

From Mr J. P. Marsh  
Sir, The Army is not like a limited liability company, to be reconstructed, remodelled, liquidated, and refloated from week to week as the money market fluctuates. It is not an inanimate thing, like a house, to be pulled down or enlarged or structurally altered at the caprice of the tenant or owner; it is a living thing. If it is bulldozed it sulks, if it is wadded it pines, if it is harried, it gets feverish, if it is sufficiently disturbed, it will wither and dwindle and almost die; and when it comes to this last serious condition it is only to be revived by lots of time and lots of money.

So wrote Churchill on December 17, 1904, in response to proposed army cuts at the time. I just hope he was wrong, or we may come to regret the peace dividend.

Yours faithfully,  
J. P. MARSH,  
6 Cottage Green,  
Goodworth Clatford,  
Andover, Hampshire.  
June 26.

## Blake case acquittal

From Mr Benedict Birnberg  
Sir, Janet Daley ("Something in the air", June 28) is entitled to express her surly opinions about Patrick Pottle and Michael Randle and their acquittal by the jury. However, as their solicitor I must correct two errors in her piece.

First she says: "The fact that the prosecuting counsel made no closing address to counter the effect of the defendants' rhetoric meant that the argument was lost by default." This is of course wrong because in any trial prosecuting counsel's closing speech precedes that of the defendants, who have the last word.

Secondly, and more significantly, Ms Daley urges your readers to "leave aside the question of whether it was sensible to try (my clients) ... for an adventure of 25 years ago" and postulates that "Once the case had come to court it became a duel between the rule of law and the cult of private conscience ...". And further she asserts that my clients had no technical defence in law to the charges and that the jury were invited to acquit them simply because of "moral considerations".

The fact is that not only in lengthy pre-trial proceedings but throughout

the trial itself a central and fundamental issue was the Crown's alleged abuse of process in prosecuting 25 years after the event when, as it transpired from documents ultimately and reluctantly disclosed to defence, the police knew of Mr Pottle's and Mr Randle's involvement in 1970 and took no action then, and I have no doubt that this was at the heart of the jury's reasoning in reaching their abundantly justified verdict on the merits of the case. And moreover, my clients advanced to the court the technical defence of "necessity" justifying their actions in freeing Blake in 1966.

I accept of course that in the presence of the jury the judge ruled the defence had submitted wrongly that it was not open to them to rely on the abuse-of-process argument at the trial and also that their necessity defence could not be put to the jury; but, to see the record straight, the appeal to the jury was not simply based on "compassion" and "fairness" and the jury had plenty of material to legitimise their verdict on proper legal grounds.

Yours faithfully,  
BENEDICT BIRNBERG,  
B. M. Birnberg & Co.,  
103 Borough High Street, SE1.  
June 28.

## Curbing high salaries

From Mr Blynth Jenkins  
Sir, Mrs Linnett (June 28) draws attention to the difficulties faced by small shareholders in combining together to place pressure upon boards of directors, in particular in relation to directors' pay.

In the interview to which she refers I said that the proper mechanism for the control of the pay-setting process for directors is the existence of a remuneration committee of non-executive directors, without the executive directors being present. No one should be in a position to determine his own salary, and the use of such a mechanism will avoid charges of "helping themselves" which are thrown at directors all too often. All public companies should have such a system and most do.

The Institute of Directors has over the years consistently advocated the adoption by all com-

panies of a system of corporate governance in which a vital feature is the presence of non-executive — or more properly termed "independent" — directors to provide a system of checks and balances to ensure the integrity of the board's operation. Such independent directors also have a key role in relation to the audit and nomination process.

It is only where this system does not exist, or has manifestly failed, that the shareholders come into play, and here I would urge them to use their votes. All board members come up for re-election and the companies' accounts require adoption by shareholders each year. Convening an extraordinary general meeting is not necessary.

Yours sincerely,  
BLYNTH JENKINS  
(Director of Corporate Affairs),  
Institute of Directors,  
116 Pall Mall, SW1.  
June 28.

## Business rate worry

From the Chief Executive of the London Chamber of Commerce and others

Sir, Despite the comprehensive review of local government finance now taking place, businesses in the south of England face the prospect of massive year-on-year increases in commercial rates at a time of serious recession. The government's stated intention is for the new council tax to preserve the high "pegging" of the community charge, a fact which presupposes the retention of the damaging uniform business rate.

Whilst popular demands for local domestic taxation to reflect ability to pay have been heeded, the UBR will continue to penalise unfairly

small businesses and seriously affect the now fragile economy of southern England.

There is clearly a case for including commercial rating in the review of local government finance. The UBR distorts business decisions, reduces local accountability and breaks any connection between the level of local taxation and the level of services. Its interaction with the revaluation of property has caused rate levels in the south to rise in those very sectors and areas suffering most. For many businesses it has become virtually impossible to operate.

There are many ways of redistributing taxation revenue between regions, but surely local taxation should not be one of them.

## Balancing the books in public libraries

From the Chief Executive of the Library Association

Sir, Your leading article, "Liberating libraries" (June 25), suggests that public libraries ought to start charging for the loan of popular fiction and should make the lending of audio and visual material at least self-financing. If librarians want public support for their admirable service, you suggest, they must be open to such new ideas and sources of revenue.

Professional librarians have been discussing the pros and cons of charging for years, indeed decades. If they are not inclined to adopt the practices you suggest it is because serious consideration persuades them that there is a far stronger case against than in favour.

Public libraries take different attitudes to the stocking of popular romantic fiction and it is right that they should do so. Each library must take account of the circumstances in its own area. It is, after all, in existence to reflect both the needs and wishes of its local population. But it would be a tragedy if a line were to be drawn between what is defined as "non-cultural material" and serious works. Reading — any kind of reading — is an endangered practice: better that people should read romantic fiction than nothing at all.

The provision of our endangered but still very good public library system costs remarkably little — about 22p per person per week, a lot less than the cost of one daily newspaper. For this small sum the public has access to all the materials it might want for serious research, for leisure reading and for obtaining factual information. The service is strengthened by the excellent arrangements which exist for obtaining books from other libraries which are not available in one's local library.

Given that a far higher proportion of the public makes use of public library services than of most public services (one in three, not one in ten as your leader states), it makes absolute sense for this service to be financed by a modest charge from national and local taxation. This reasoning has been found to be persuasive not only in this country but throughout the United States, most of the English-speaking world and beyond.

## Arms to Indonesia

From Ms Carmel Budiardjo

Sir, On April 20, in an editorial, "What about Timor?", you wrote that economic and military sanctions against Indonesia would be perfectly in order because of the need for pressure in favour of a UN-supervised referendum in occupied East Timor to enable the Timorese to decide their own future.

Last week, British Aerospace announced a preliminary agreement with IPTN, Indonesia's state-owned aerospace industry, for the co-production of Hawk trainer and light-attack fighter jets.

British Aerospace is already one of Indonesia's main arms dealers, having supplied 20 Hawk aircraft and \$340 million worth of Rapier surface-to-air missiles as well as building a £3 million technology

college for the Indonesian armed forces. The co-production agreement will not only increase Indonesia's own fleet of Hawks; it will turn the country into a major supplier of the aircraft to countries in South-east Asia and the Pacific.

This goes against the grain of government pronouncements in favour of arms cuts and should, on these grounds alone, be challenged. The deal should be strongly condemned and the government should be urged to reverse its decision and withdraw any licence that may already have been granted.

Yours faithfully,  
DAPHNE G. MEDLEY,  
Artiscombeleigh, Mill Hill,  
Tavistock, Devon.  
June 25.

I see no reason why those who use the libraries merely for the provision of light-weight entertainment, as well as those who would like to make voluntary contributions to public library costs, should not be permitted to do so.

But it would be wise to rule that any private contributions were at least matched by an increase of central public funding, not made an excuse for a reduction.

Yours faithfully,  
DAPHNE G. MEDLEY,  
Artiscombeleigh, Mill Hill,  
Tavistock, Devon.  
June 25.

## A common currency

From Sir Hermann Bondi

Sir, The present European discussions bring to my mind a number of considerations. National security is at the heart of nationhood. There is no point talking about a common policy in defence unless there is unity in fact on sacrifices to be made in this field.

Is there readiness on the part of all Community members to send units of their forces to support the British army in the streets of Northern Ireland or in the garrisoning of the Falklands, to support Spanish security organs in the Basque country, to support French ones in Corsica or in an African expeditionary force? When such practical unity has been a fact for a number of years and when all members of the Community are full members of Nato, discussions can start on a machinery for a common defence policy.

A common currency is a different matter. Successive governments seem to have controlled our currency about as effectively as the Meteorological Office controls the weather. A change here would not be unwelcome.

We all take pride that in a democracy the judiciary is well removed from the political process, so why not take similar pride in a similar separation for the control of our currency? Once this has been accepted, there is no difficulty in making this a common European currency.

Yours faithfully,  
HERMANN BONDI,  
Churchill College, Cambridge.

## Older drivers

From Mr Frank West-Oram

Sir, Some key points in the Department of Transport's booklet, "The Older Road User", are omitted in your report (June 25). The booklet notes that "older people are not at high risk of being involved in a road accident" and "have a much lower casualty rate per head of population as car occupants than other adults".

"The older driver drives slower" and "prefers safety to speed"; "fewer older drivers skid, cut corners or drive on the wrong side of the road" — presumably younger drivers do.

Naturally when — rarely — older road users are involved in a crash, their death rate is likely to be higher than for the young, as with any other cause of injury. This is itself good reason for crash prevention.

A recent study by Professor A. S. R. Mansstead of Manchester University for the Transport and Road Research Laboratory concluded that a major cause of crashes was deliberate violation of traffic laws and codes. Young men were the most dangerous, being more likely to break speed limits, drive aggressively and closely pursue other vehicles.

The young could learn lessons from the old.

Yours faithfully,  
FRANK WEST-ORAM,  
161 Chester Road,  
Northwich, Cheshire.  
June 25.

## Vanishing chips

From Mr Conrad Voss-Bark

Sir, What is happening to the chip? For many years now, on my infrequent visits to London, I have always looked forward to a dinner of Dover sole and chips at my club. But now under a new regime chips are no longer to be served and I am told they are disappearing from many menus throughout the West End. This is terrible. What can be done?

Yours dolefully,  
CONRAD VOSS-BARK,  
Lyd Cottage, Leat Road,  
Lifton, Devon.  
June 28.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071 782 5046).











# Bluestockings on the run

**THE SISTERHOOD**  
Minerva, Chichester



Literary Boudicca, scything enemies down: Judy Parfitt (foreground) as Phillaminte with Isla Blair as Belise

RANJIT Bolt has given his adaptation of Molière's *Femmes Savantes* a title which even chide modern costumes and a wittily updated text fail to justify. *The Bluestockings* and a Victorian setting would better suit a play most of whose female characters, far from being in grim-faced revolt against patriarchy, are embarrassingly fond of and emulate pretentious male poets and philosophers. Whatever the superficial signs to the contrary, the butts of the evening's satire are not radical feminists, but the kind of intellectual upstarts our great-grandfathers tried to stop going to Gt. Ouse.

Never mind. Bolt's rhymes come almost as near to compulsive listening as those Tony Harrison wrote for the *Bluestockings*, and Times, is mostly good, brisk fun. Together, they do much to resuscitate an original which even Molière's most dedicated fans would have to admit tends towards the wordy and soporific. From the moment the harpichordist struck up an odd blend of Scott Joplin and C.P.E. Bach to the improbabilities of the ending, the audience gave every sign of staying on red alert.

That might also be because the play's stance is not exactly ungenial in the heart of Bruges Group country. As with so much of Molière's work, the plot involves the attempts of an obsessed parent to wreck the emotional hopes of the young. But this time the villain is a culturally snobbish French aristocrat, queen of a salon at which the small talk is of deconstruction and semiotics.

played by Rah Handleigh, and Sheila, who provides Mar with food and sensible advice, strongly played by Lesley Robertson. *Sharks* self-consciously acknowledges itself to be a melodrama both in its use of music and in the happy ending when the police arrest McNaughton. Unlike melodrama, however, *Sharks* is not set in a moral universe which protects the pure of heart, but in a housing scheme where policemen are treated with suspicion, and loyalty to one's own kind is the overriding morality. The play's message, forcefully and bluntly delivered, is that this misplaced loyalty is stupid, and that there are alternatives to loan sharks, so that anyone who is involved with them should go to the police or at least look for help. It takes a brave company to write a play which speaks to its audience so bluntly, but the message makes its mark.

The show seems to have inspired the serious song-writers to experiment with a greater variety of musical styles than usual. The music is provided by members of the company, such as George Drennan, who can switch seemingly effortlessly from Chanderesque pop to trumpet. Yet *Sharks* is not simply fun; and at times it seems uncomfortably close to a temperance melodrama, that is exactly what the company intends.

ALASDAIR CAMERON

**Elvis Costello**  
Hammersmith Odeon

EXPECT the unexpected has been the traditional watchword for Elvis Costello in concert. A mischievous entertainer with a vast catalogue of material, he might build a performance round an elaborate gag—such as his hilarious "Spectacular Spinning Songbook" pastiche of a television game show in 1986—or else turn up alone with an acoustic guitar as he did in 1989 to promote the *Spike* album.

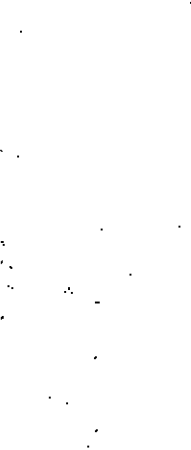
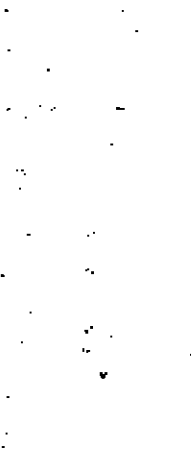
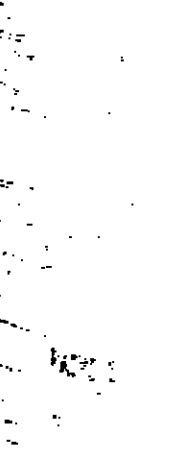
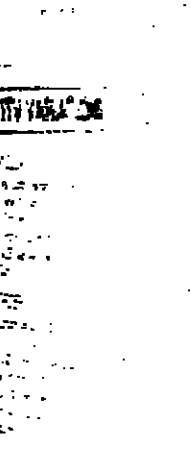
However, backed by a quartet calling itself The Rude 5, this year's Costello model was in a plainly uninspired mode. Looking like "Woody Allen pretending to be in the Grateful Dead," the shaggy and increasingly stocky Costello opened for business with a robust "Accidents Will Happen". The sound was determined old-fashioned: voice prominent, drums mixed and organ played through a Leslie cabinet. Adding a 12-string guitar to the mix, Costello carried on with a suitably jingly version of "You Bow Down". As ever, there was no shortage of wit and variety in the swift succession of songs which followed, but the performance was curiously dull and

uninvolving. For all his vaunted avant-garde credentials, guitarist Marc Ribot was kept on a short musical leash and, like bassist Jerry Scheff, stayed physically rooted to the spot. The stage was bereft of decoration save for the enigmatic placing of one silver dustbin next to the drums.

There was a cute reworking of "Veronica," an odd 3/4 version of "The Other Side of Summer," the words still tangled up like clothes in a dryer, and a brooding "So Like Candy" which cleverly segued into "I Want You". But it was a static, introspective affair that all but ground to a halt during "Everybody's Crying Mercy".

Costello's celebrated anti-Thatcher diatribe "Tramp the Dirt Down" was reserved for the first set of "encores". Never a very gracious song, this revised version called for the arrest of the Queen Mother and the continued hounding of Margaret Thatcher. At last the show flickered into life as the audience bayed its appreciation of these sentiments. The "Rocky Rap," "God's Comic" and the "Rocky To Be Dumb" raves were followed by favourites including "Alison" and "Pump It Up". Costello was by this time humming it up famously, and a disappointing performance was alleviated by a comforting patina of nostalgia.

DAVID SINCLAIR



## NEW RELEASES

**DEPENDENT YOUR LIFE** (PG): Albert Brooks as your average middle-class American, put on trial in the efforts. Dances, funny comedy, with Meryl Streep also directs. Curzon West End (071-435 3388). Screen on the 18 (071-435 3388).

**THE MARKED GUN** (PG): THE SMELL OF FEAR (12): Leslie Nielsen returns as a second-prize L.A. Frankenstein. Notorious dead-end comedy. With Patricia Richardson, director, David Zucker. Curzon West End (071-435 3388). Screen on the 18 (071-435 3388).

**NAVY SEALS** (18): Out, deplorable action yarn about a US commando unit in the Middle East. With Charlie Sheen, director, Lewis Teague. Curzon West End (071-435 3388). Screen on the 18 (071-435 3388).

**CITIZEN KANE** (U): Welles's enthralling examination of the American dream celebrates its 50th birthday with a new print struck from the original. Curzon Phoenix (071-240 0881).

**CLASS ACTION** (18): Gene Hackman and Mary Elizabeth Mastrantonio as father and daughter fighting opposite sides of a lawsuit. Fine acting; awkward script. Director, Michael Apted. Curzon Phoenix (071-240 0881). Screen on the 18 (071-435 3388).

**LA GLOIRE DE MON PERE** (U): Episodic pulp through Muriel Pagnon's childhood memories—decent, nostalgic, but excessively well-heeled. With Philippe Cluette, director, Yves Robert. Lumière (071-555 0881).

**GUILTY BY SUSPICION** (18): Hollywood which-hurt tale—muted as

## CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol @) on release across the country.

**THE HARDRESSER'S HUSBAND** (18): A film tale of romantic obsession. Screenplay by the director of *Monterey*. With Patricia Richardson, director, David Zucker. Curzon West End (071-435 3388). Screen on the 18 (071-435 3388).

**THE KING OF NEW YORK** (18): Christopher Walken as a ruthless hoodlum with style. Energetic thriller that finally gets out of hand; director, Abel Ferrara. Curzon Phoenix (071-240 0881).

**A KISS BEFORE DYING** (18): Cate Blanchett as a woman who witnesses a murder and is then hunted by a detective. With Michael York, director, John Dahl. Curzon Phoenix (071-240 0881).

**THE LAST DAYS OF DON JUAN**: Screenplay by the director of *Monterey*. With Patricia Richardson, director, David Zucker. Curzon West End (071-435 3388). Screen on the 18 (071-435 3388).

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## THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of current theatre in London

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**Sharks**  
Citizens, Glasgow

AFTER a run of rather lacklustre productions, Wildcat, Scotland's music-based political theatre company, is back on form with *Sharks*. The mixture of rock/pop music and strong scenario seems much the same as before, but what makes *Sharks* so powerful is the ordinariness of the central story of young Marie McGinley who falls prey to the local loan shark after her husband dies. The huge increase in debts to loan sharks follows the unfolding of the tragic tale in appreciative silence rather than the usual vocal commentary which accompanies a Wilkin-style story.

Much of the success of *Sharks* stems from the acting of the opposing groups. On the side of right, Pauline Knowles is touching as the feeble but good-hearted Marie, who blows the money she is loaned by her social worker on a headstone for her husband, and has to borrow the money again from McNaughton as the loan shark, played with a menacing affability by Dave Anderson.

Their respective henchmen are Delmonte, the violin-loving thug

played by Rah Handleigh, and Sheila, who provides Mar with food and sensible advice, strongly played by Lesley Robertson.

*Sharks* self-consciously acknowledges itself to be a melodrama both in its use of music and in the happy ending when the police arrest McNaughton. Unlike melodrama, however, *Sharks* is not set in a moral universe which protects the pure of heart, but in a housing scheme where policemen are treated with suspicion, and loyalty to one's own kind is the overriding morality. The play's message, forcefully and bluntly delivered, is that this misplaced loyalty is stupid, and that there are alternatives to loan sharks, so that anyone who is involved with them should go to the police or at least look for help. It takes a brave company to write a play which speaks to its audience so bluntly, but the message makes its mark.

ALASDAIR CAMERON

**Elvis Costello**  
Hammersmith Odeon

EXPECT the unexpected has been the traditional watchword for Elvis Costello in concert. A mischievous entertainer with a vast catalogue of material, he might build a performance round an elaborate gag—such as his hilarious "Spectacular Spinning Songbook" pastiche of a television game show in 1986—or else turn up alone with an acoustic guitar as he did in 1989 to promote the *Spike* album.

However, backed by a quartet calling itself The Rude 5, this year's Costello model was in a plainly uninspired mode. Looking like "Woody Allen pretending to be in the Grateful Dead," the shaggy and increasingly stocky Costello opened for business with a robust "Accidents Will Happen". The sound was determined old-fashioned: voice prominent, drums mixed and organ played through a Leslie cabinet. Adding a 12-string guitar to the mix, Costello carried on with a suitably jingly version of "You Bow Down". As ever, there was no shortage of wit and variety in the swift succession of songs which followed, but the performance was curiously dull and

uninvolving. For all his vaunted avant-garde credentials, guitarist Marc Ribot was kept on a short musical leash and, like bassist Jerry Scheff, stayed physically rooted to the spot. The stage was bereft of decoration save for the enigmatic placing of one silver dustbin next to the drums.

There was a cute reworking of "Veronica," an odd 3/4 version of "The Other Side of Summer," the words still tangled up like clothes in a dryer, and a brooding "So Like Candy" which cleverly segued into "I Want You". But it was a static, introspective affair that all but ground to a halt during "Everybody's Crying Mercy".

Costello's celebrated anti-Thatcher diatribe "Tramp the Dirt Down" was reserved for the first set of "encores". Never a very gracious song, this revised version called for the arrest of the Queen Mother and the continued hounding of Margaret Thatcher. At last the show flickered into life as the audience bayed its appreciation of these sentiments. The "Rocky Rap," "God's Comic" and the "Rocky To Be Dumb" raves were followed by favourites including "Alison" and "Pump It Up". Costello was by this time humming it up famously, and a disappointing performance was alleviated by a comforting patina of nostalgia.

DAVID SINCLAIR

**Schreier/Ameling/Pollet**  
Wigmore Hall

MONDAY was the Wigmore Hall's longest day. The queuing started at 8.30 in the morning and the encores went on until nearly ten at night. It was a rare chance to hear the German tenor Peter Schreier, made the more so because the audience knew that neither he nor his colleagues would be returning to the hall for some time.

William Lyne, the hall's director, had set up quite a weekend for certain-up before the Wigmore's year of refurbishment. Schreier and András Schiff, as the grand finale, epitomised everything the hall has come to represent in the 25 years of Lyne's directorship. Their all-Schubert recital generated a thrilling

momentum and an intensity of two-way response from stage to auditorium which surpassed even that at the Hohenems Schubertiade.

Only the greatest songs were chosen. Schreier must have lost count of the recitals he has opened (and often closed, too) with the murmuring brook of "Liebesbotschaft" from the *Schwanegeang*. Yet here its watery measure sprang up as if for the first time, and as if for this audience alone. As Schreier and Schiff worked their way through these late Schubert songs, through the departures and longings of the *Rechtschaffen* settings and on to the visionary intensity of the Heine *Lieder*, the voice of the one artist and the fingers of the other fused in the inner and outer drama of each song.

By following every contour, Schreier uncovered that white afterglow of emotion which only few can find in a song like "Ihr Bild" or "Am Meer". His vision of "Der Doppelgänger" grew from an almost absentminded

to concentrated fear. Only Goethe could provide counterbalance in the second half. After appearances by Ganyem, *Wilhelm Meister's* Harper and the Son of the Muses, Schreier started on his encores. "Taubenpost", cried one voice from the audience, clearly feeling cheated of the final, ornately swansong. "Too difficult!" shouted Schiff, and "Die Forelle" flashed into sight, before a final, whispered lullaby.

If a recital like this threatened to put already desolate *Wigmore habitude* in urgent need of post-closure counselling, then Killy Ameling's Sunday concert provided a therapy all its own. The smiling voice of this familiar Wigmore presence seemed to reassure its audience of the comfortable continuity of things. Mozart's spring and Schubert's winter evening glowed alike, the shift from major to minor through laughter and tears was intuitively tasted and turned in the still youthful-sounding soprano.

Ameling's perfect control of the expansion and contraction of every mobile phrase in the French repertoire, and Rudolf Jensen's sentient accompanying, lifted her over the odd bulge and bump lurking now in the voice. Her Debussy "C'est l'estase" was a mirror of reflected lights and half lights, her Duparc "Lamento" wonderfully oblique in its grief.

Françoise Pollet, singing a few days before, has not yet learned that degree of interpretative sophistication. But this most warm and generous of sopranos, first noticed here in her English Bach Festival *Idomeneo*, radiates both the sheer joy of a native French singer relishing her own musical and verbal language, and a vibrancy of character which rang through her Britten Five French Folksong arrangements.

HILARY FINCH

Arts features, page 13

## Answers from page 20

**SKESKICKS**  
(C) US slang for a good-for-nothing racial or ethnic stereotype. The word is derived from the Greek *skos* (to eat) and *skos* (to eat). This is a poor skeskick that's got nothing to eat but an onion.

**TILBURY**  
(A) A light open two-wheeled carriage, for jangling in the park and other parades of the nobles, fashionable in the first half of the 19th century, from the name of its inventor: Outdare, cared about snobberies, but tended to get them over so slightly wrong: "We stood waiting for his alibi."

**ELTCH**  
(C) An ambassador, a representative in the Ottoman Empire, from the Turkish *el* (tribe) + *elch* (representative). "Ignorant of what is due to the character of elch or ambassador."

**SALIGOT**  
(A) The water chestnut, *Tropaeolum*, from the OF *saligot*. "The potato is a root like the saligots growing in gardens, which are called saligots, or Jerusalem artichokes."

## ENTERTAINMENTS

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**OLYMPIA**  
with Charles Calverly  
COLLEGE 071 536 3161  
or 071 5



ESDAY JULY 3 1991

BBC 1

6.00 **Crest**  
6.30 **BBC Breakfast News**  
9.05 **Health U.K.** Marilyn Lewis looks at arthritis, the biggest cause of disability in the UK 9.30 **Comic Relief**. A look at the life and career of comic Billy Connolly (r)  
10.00 **News**, regional news and weather 10.05 **Playdays** (r) 10.25 **Match of the Day** (r) 10.30 **Homeback**. The second of two programmes on the most demanding aspect of horse riding - the cross-country (r)  
11.00 **News**, regional news and weather 11.05 **Our House**. American family drama series (r). (Crest) 11.35 **The Travel Show**. Traveller, John Thirlwell gives his personal view of Trier in Germany (r)  
12.00 **News**, regional news and weather 12.05 **National Geographic Special: The Flight of the Whooping Crane**. Wildlife documentary looking at how the US and Canadian governments are trying to preserve the endangered whooping crane 12.55 **Regional news and weather**  
1.50 **One O'Clock News** and weather 1.30 **Neighbours** (r). (Crest) 1.50 **Wimbledon '91**. Desmond Lynam introduces live coverage from the All England Club  
4.10 **Rupert** (r) 4.15 **Yogi's Treasure Hunt** (r) 4.35 **Expo**. The start of a new series of children's documentaries aiming to explore the world through its museums. The programme looks at the Hitler House museum in Bielefeld, Queensland, a memorial to Bert Hilder, an Australian who became one of the world's greatest aviators. (Crest)  
5.00 **Newsround** 5.10 **The Barons**. Episode two of an 11-part children's drama (r)  
5.35 **Neighbours** (r). (Crest) 5.40 **Inside Uster**  
6.00 **Six O'Clock News** with Anna Ford and Andrew Harvey. Weather 6.30 **Regional news** and weather. Northern Ireland: Neighbours 7.00 **Wogan**. The guests include actress Diane Ladd. Music is provided by OMD  
7.30 **Come Dancing '91**. Angela Rippon presents the second heat of the battle of the dance floor from the Tower Ballroom, Blackpool. Dancers from Cardiff and Nottingham compete in the categories of Latin, old-time, rock 'n' roll and quick-step. Charles Noe provides the commentary and Andy Rouse the music. (Crest)  
8.00 **Police Rescue: Up a Tree**. Australian police drama series starring Gary Sweet and Sonia Todd. Mickey finds himself on the other side of the law when his sympathy for an environmental protest lands him in trouble with a government minister. (Crest)  
8.50 **Points of View**. Anne Robinson lets viewers have their say 9.00 **Nine O'Clock News** with Michael Barker. (Crest) Regional news and weather



Patient-in-waiting: Alexander Stephens, front right (8.30pm)

9.30 **The Visit: The Battle for Alexander**  
© CHOICE: Desmond Wilson's latest inspirational story is two-pronged. One strand relates the anguish of Jamie and Debbie Stephens, a couple with a brain-damaged child. Alexander is three. He cannot talk or support himself and is still being taught how to use his hands. The strain on his parents is enormous. They fear that the time they must devote to Alexander may bring resentment from their older son. Jamie is afraid that domestic pressure may hold back his career in the RAF. The other story is how the Stephens family is pursuing a claim for medical negligence and damages against the hospital. They are determined to fix the blame and win the compensation they need to look after their child. But the legal process can be dreadfully slow and there is the awful thought by the time it is completed, the patient may no longer be around to benefit. (Crest)  
10.20 **Today at Wimbledon**. Harty Carpenter reviews the day's tennis action from the All England championships. The programme also includes athletics from Stockholm  
11.40 **Spenser for Hire: Rockabye Baby**. A dying man's last request involves Spenser in trying to protect a former prostitute from mob gunmen. Stars Robert Ulrich and Susan Hesse 12.30am **Weather**

BBC 2

8.45 **Open University: Questions of National Identity**. Ends at 7.35  
9.00 **News**  
9.15 **Weekend Update**. The latest news from both Houses  
9.30 **Yesterday at Wimbledon**. Highlights from yesterday's play (r)  
10.00 **Film: Lilies in Spring (1955)**. A theatrical romance starring Anna Neagle and Erol Flynn. A young stage star is injured by a bomb explosion during a second world war air raid and dreams that she is various historical characters - including Queen Victoria, Nell Gwynn, her own mother and music hall star Lillian Grey, who was discovered by and subsequently married to handsome actor John Barrymore (played by the dashing Erol Flynn). When she wakes up she has to deal with her own problems and the love between her two real-life suitors. Also starring David Farrar, Peter Graves and Kathleen Harrison. Directed by Herbert Wilcox  
11.30 **Arthur Negus Enjoys**. Arthur Negus is joined at Weston Park in Shropshire by Madeline Ginsburg of the Victoria & Albert Museum to trace the progress of a wealthy Georgian lady as she separates her toasts (r)  
11.50 **Cosplay**. A magazine programme focusing on rural, environmental and agricultural issues, presented by John Craven (r)  
12.15 **Mr Bean**. Cartoon (r)  
12.30 **Wimbledon '91**. Desmond Lynam introduces live coverage from the All England Club. The commentary is provided by Dan Maskell, John Barrett, Mark Cox, Barry Davies, Bill Thrall, John Alexander and David Butt. (Crest) Includes News and weather at 2.00, 3.00 and 5.00pm  
8.05 **Reaching For The Skies**. A repeat of the series on the story of aviation and the quest to fly faster, higher and further. The programme starts with a look at aviation's pioneers. It takes the story from the breakthrough in powered flight in 1903 by the Wright brothers, through other adventurous pilots soon competing to follow that fragile aeroplane, to the modern jet age, and the introduction of the jet engine, to the arrival of the jet age in the 1950s, and the introduction of new era of possibilities. Narrated by the late Anthony Quayle, the series uses footage of vintage, replica and modern aircraft, plus extensive archive material (r). (Crest)

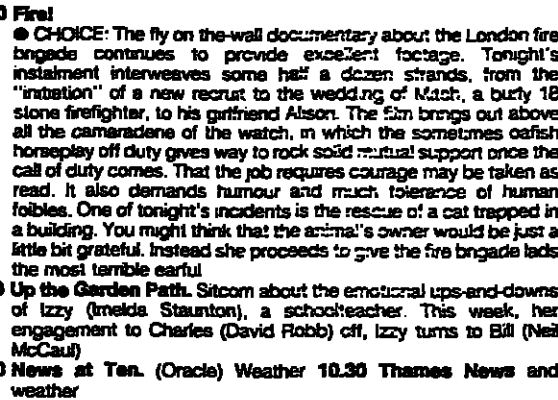


'Indisfing': Tom Courtenay with Miranda Richardson (8.00pm)

8.00 **Screenplay: Redemption**  
© CHOICE: A gloomy Lincolnshire landscape forms a fitting backdrop to Malcolm McKay's intense drama of a murderer returning to seek forgiveness in the village where he committed the crime. Armed with a rustic axe and an expressionless face, Tom Courtenay plays the moneyfabled Stan, sent to prison for life for the murder of his wife. He is not easily welcomed into the village. Indeed, it is made brutally clear that his presence is not required. The shrewd opposition comes from his former lover, Valerie (Miranda Richardson). His dowdy wife (Lindsay Duncan) keeps her distance. Only his brother (Malcolm Storry) stands out against the crowd. Flashbacks help to enlighten us about Stan's past, but not very much. McKay, sometimes to an irritating extent, pretends to keep his viewer guessing. It is a splendidly acted but rather studied piece, in which "atmosphere" is laid on with a trowel  
10.30 **Newsnight** presented by Jeremy Paxman  
11.15 **Push the Boat Out: Remembrance Ferry**. The second in the series of five programmes recorded during Glasgow's Mayfest last year on board the Remembrance Ferry once a car transporter, now permanently moored on the Clyde. The West of Scotland sets the pace and there is top-billing music from Northumbrian piper and fiddle player Kathryn Tickell and her band. Andy White, a singer-songwriter in the Bob Dylan mould, provides a contrast and the show is introduced by virtuoso fiddle player Aly Bain, who is joined by accordionist Phil Cunningham  
11.50 **Open University: Open Forum Magazine: Access to Higher Education**. Ends at 12.55am

ITV

8.00 **TV-am**  
8.25 **All Used Up**. Game show for married couples, hosted by David Hamilton 8.55 **Thames News** and weather  
10.00 **Out of This World**. American comedy series  
10.30 **Family Magazine**. Family magazine  
12.10 **Allsorts**. Children's entertainment (r)  
12.30 **News** and weather 1.10 **Thames News** and weather  
1.20 **Home and Away** 1.50 **A Country Practice**. Australian medical drama set in a rural community health centre  
2.20 **Take the High Road**. Scottish soap set in the Highlands 2.50 **Crucy Competitions**. Crucy Tennant hosts the game show  
3.15 **ITN News** headlines 3.20 **Thames News** headlines 3.25 **The Young Doctors**. Soap set in a large Australian city hospital  
3.55 **The Wombles**. Narrated by Bernard Cribbins (r) 4.05 **Bangers and Meek** (r) 4.10 **Garfield and Friends** (r) 4.40 **Rolls' Cartoon Club**. A trip into the land of animation. With Falt Harris (r)  
5.10 **Blockbusters** presented by Bob Holness  
5.40 **News** (Crace) Weather  
5.50 **1230 The Year and the Year**. Jackie Speckley with details of the Young Photographers' Workshop in Camber  
6.00 **Home and Away** (r)  
6.30 **Thames News**  
6.50 **Bushman's Holiday** presented by Sarah Kennedy. This week's teams in the travel and occupation quiz game feature chimney designers, travel agents and models (Crace)  
7.20 **Blockbusters** 7.50 **Crucy Competitions**  
8.00 **Wombles**. Drama series about Bridget Morgan (Helen Roberts) and her seven illegitimate children. (Crace)



Mitch's wedding: the watch forms a guard of honour (8.00pm)

8.00 **Final**  
© CHOICE: The fly on the wall documentary about the London fire brigade continues to provide excellent footage. Tonight's instalment interviews some half a dozen strands, from the "inflation" of a new recruit to the wedding of Mitch, a curly 18 stone firefighter, to his girlfriend's wedding. The programme also looks at the camaraderie of the watch, in which the sometimes selfish heroism of duty gives way to rock solid mutual support once the call of duty comes. That the job requires courage may be taken as read. It also demands humour and much tolerance of human foibles. One of tonight's incidents is the rescue of a cat trapped in a building. You might think that the animal's owner would be just a little bit grateful. Instead she proceeds to give the fire brigade loads the most terrible earful  
9.30 **Up the Garden Path**. Sitcom about the emotional ups-and-downs of Izzy (Melinda Staunton), a schoolteacher. This week, her engagement to Charles (David Robb) off, Izzy turns to Bill (Neil McCaul)  
10.00 **News at Ten** (Crace) Weather 10.30 **Thames News** and weather  
10.40 **Boxing Special**. Jim Rosenthal presents the Nigel Benn v Kid Moko midweight bout from the International Centre in Brentwood. Followed by the Wally Swift v Tony Collins British light middleweight championship from Rivermead Leisure Centre in Reading  
12.15am **Film: Rally Round the Flag, Boyal (1958)**. A comedy of the sexes starring Paul Newman and Joan Woodward. Here, as in real life, they play a husband and wife who do not see eye to eye on everything - he is a quiet Connecticut conservative who works for the Wally Swift v Tony Collins British light middleweight championship from Rivermead Leisure Centre in Reading. When their home town is chosen as the site for a secret military installation, Woodward drags the reluctant Newman off to Washington to protest. To complicate matters, their next-door neighbour, femme-fatale Joan Collins, is close behind with nothing but Newman on her mind. Directed by Leo McCarey  
2.15 **Videofreak**. Top model Marlene Dietrich, colourist Achille Vitti and Italian shoemaker Andrea Pister are among the featured fashion stars  
2.40 **America's Top Ten** presented by Tommy Puett and Casey Kasen  
3.10 **Quiz Night**. Pub and club quiz show, hosted by Martin Roberts  
3.40 **The New Seasons**. With northern band Leavers 5 in concert 4.10 **Wimbledon '91** 4.40 **Fifty Years On** (r)  
5.00 **Grand Ole Opry**. Country music from Nashville, Tennessee 5.30 **ITN Morning News**. Ends at 6.00

CHANNEL 4

6.00 **The Channel Four Daily**  
6.25 **Film: Angels Wash Their Faces (1938)**. b/w. Lively melodrama starring the Dead End Kids - who come to the rescue of a falsely accused friend. Starring Ann Sheridan and Ronald Reagan. Directed by Ray Enright  
11.00 **As It Happens: At the Zoo**. The camera team discovers how to force-feed a snake (r)  
12.00 **The Parliament Programme**  
12.30 **Business Daily** presented by Susanam Simons  
1.00 **Seaside Street**. Entertaining early learning series (r)  
2.00 **Gallery**. The informal arts quiz hosted by George Melly (r)  
2.30 **Film: Fighter Squadron (1948)**. A Raoul Walsh second world war drama about the exploits of a British-based US fighter squadron operating against the Luftwaffe over England and France. Starring Edmund O'Brien, Robert Stack and, in his screen debut, Rock Hudson  
4.15 **Pete Smith Special: Pedestrian Safety** (b/w). A light-hearted look at the cause and prevention of pedestrian accidents  
4.30 **Countdown**. Words and numbers game hosted by Richard Whitley  
5.00 **Laurel and Hardy**. Animated Stan and Ollie  
5.05 **The Oprah Winfrey Show**. Oprah's guests are former child stars who have since been in trouble with the law  
6.00 **A Different World**. Award-winning American sitcom set on a college campus  
6.30 **Best of The Word**. Terry Christen, Amanda De Cadenet and Michelle Collins present a selection of highlights from the first series of *The Word*. Terry talks to Mike McShane and Bridget Nielsen, while Amanda goes on the road with EMF and pumps iron with Brooke Shields. With music from Warrant  
7.00 **Channel 4 News** (Teletext) Weather  
7.50 **Party Political Comment** from a Liberal Democrat politician  
8.00 **Brookside**. Suburban Merseyside soap (Teletext)  
8.30 **Check Out '91**. Nikk Spencer questions whether the government's proposed "citizens' charter" will actually help customers of public services, and Simon Walton asks why it is always women who have to queue for public toilets

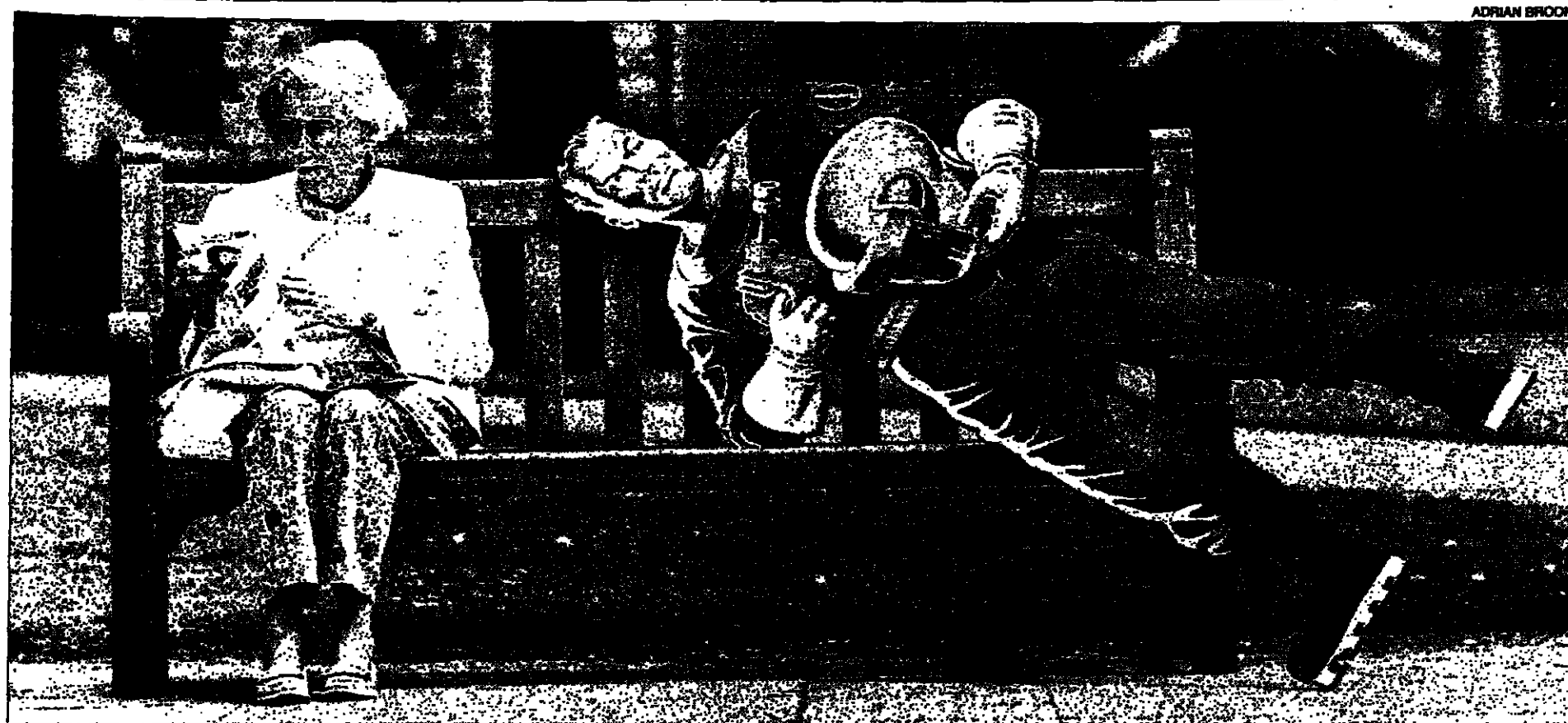


Emotional aspects of gay "marriage": Derek Jarman (8.00pm)

8.00 **Out**  
© CHOICE: The greater part of the gay and lesbian magazine is given over to a discussion about whether marriage should be available to gay couples. The participants - three Americans and a British woman solicitor - are really split. The case for is that marriage confers substantial legal benefits, which gay deserve as much as anyone else. The case against is that marriage is fast going out of fashion with heterosexuals, an argument buttressed by capon-loads of discouraging statistics. Referring the debate to Simon Fanshawe, whose determinedly jocular style may reveal a lingering nervousness about raising such matters on television. Fanshawe is also responsible for the phrase "legitimised in a one-to-one couple situation" and this time he is not joking. After the legal-political debate, Fanshawe brings in a new panel, including film director Derek Jarman, to consider the emotional aspects  
10.00 **The Golden Girls: The Operation**. Sitcom about four matrons sharing a Miami house (r). (Teletext)  
10.30 **The New Statesman: Let Them Sniff Cakes**. Repeat of the third comedy series about the thoroughly obnoxious Tony MP Alan B'Stard (Rik Mayall). Alan's controversial views on the exploitation of animals leads to death threats - and a hitch in his plans to release Lord Penistone of a chunk of his wealth. (Teletext)  
11.00 **Just for Laughs: Schmoozing**. Muriel Gray and Jimmy Mulville present highlights from the annual Montreal Comedy Festival and tour back-stage parties to discover the art of "schmoozing" (the art of talking to people who just might help your career). Performers include Al and George, Marc Price and George Wallace  
11.30 **Frank's Place**. Offbeat American sitcom about conservative Boston college professor Frank Parrish (Tim Ried) who inherits a New Orleans restaurant and its clientele  
11.55 **Film: Summer at Grandpa's (1984)**. Taiwanese director Hsiao-Hsien Hou's story of a young man whose tranquil holiday in the country is shattered when his uncle hides a pair of young robbers. Starring Quang Wang. In Chinese with English subtitles. Ends at 1.45

**ANGLIA**  
As London except: 8.25pm-9.00pm *Anglia News* 12.15pm-12.30pm *Anglia News* 1.15pm-1.30pm *Anglia News* 2.15pm-2.30pm *Anglia News* 3.15pm-3.30pm *Anglia News* 4.15pm-4.30pm *Anglia News* 5.15pm-5.30pm *Anglia News* 6.15pm-6.30pm *Anglia News* 7.15pm-7.30pm *Anglia News* 8.15pm-8.30pm *Anglia News* 9.15pm-9.30pm *Anglia News* 10.15pm-10.30pm *Anglia News* 11.15pm-11.30pm *Anglia News* 12.15pm-12.30pm *Anglia News* 1.15pm-1.30pm *Anglia News* 2.15pm-2.30pm *Anglia News* 3.15pm-3.30pm *Anglia News* 4.15pm-4.30pm *Anglia News* 5.15pm-5.30pm *Anglia News* 6.15pm-6.30pm *Anglia News* 7.15pm-7.30pm *Anglia News* 8.15pm-8.30pm *Anglia News* 9.15pm-9.30pm *Anglia News* 10.15pm-10.30pm *Anglia News* 11.15pm-11.30pm *Anglia News* 12.15pm-12.30pm *Anglia News* 1.15pm-1.30pm *Anglia News* 2.15pm-2.30pm *Anglia News* 3.15pm-3.30pm *Anglia News* 4.15pm-4.30pm *Anglia News* 5.15pm-5.30pm *Anglia News* 6.15pm-6.30pm *Anglia News* 7.15pm-7.30pm *Anglia News* 8.15pm-8.30pm *Anglia News* 9.15pm-9.30pm 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Laid back: a discarded cardboard Dan Dare fails to impress a park bench occupant in London's Grosvenor Square after a photo call for the television series yesterday

## Dan Dare charts new mission into world of television

By TIM JONES

DAN Dare, pilot of the future and dashing young colonel of the Interplanet space fleet, is set once more to journey to Venus to save mankind.

Soon after the intrepid square-jawed hero set off on his first odyssey, so dramatically recorded in the *Eagle* comic more than 40 years ago, he encountered the strange and destructive Mekon and the resulting conflict between good and evil captured the imagination of generations of schoolboys.

Now, Colonel Dare is about to become a television star, an adventure which could be every bit as risky as his encounters with the mutant green master of evil who ruled Venus and the Treens from an anti-gravity boat-like throne.

An agreement to make a £4-million, 12-part series was signed in London yesterday by Zenith, the independent production company which makes *Inspector Morse* and the *Paradise Club*, and Fleetway Publications, which produced the Dan Dare comic strip and Copyright Promotions, which will handle the licensing of Dan Dare products.

Set in 1995, the story plot has a depressing ring of reality about it. The Earth is polluted and running out of natural resources and Dan Dare must

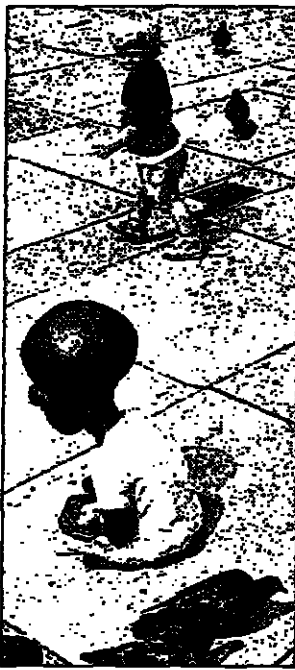
fly to Venus, thought to be lush and verdant, to see whether it can be used to grow crops in order to save mankind.

Charles Denton, Zenith's executive producer said: "Memories of Dan Dare's space adventures are indelibly imprinted on a whole generation. Now the latest computer technology at last makes it possible to bring the fantastic vision of Frank Hampson, creator of Dan Dare, to the screen for a new generation to see."

Zenith's promise to remain faithful to the character who was "born" in a humble tin shed in Southport, Lancashire, will be an interesting test of whether today's children can identify with a hero whose morality is far removed from his modern blood-covered successors. Dan Dare does not smoke, drink, or kill and is disadvantaged in his battles with the ruthless Mekon by being unable to tell a lie.

He is also chaste, although there is just the smallest hint that if he were not saving the world he may have had an affair with the lovely Professor Peabody.

He has the advantage of having as his batman Digby, who, when not dodging asteroids, often refers to his



An Earthchild taking a good look at a Mekon child at the photo call

Aunt Anastasia who once lived in his home town of Rockdale.

One slight problem facing the producers is that they have as yet found no one to play the parts. Colonel Dare is, according to Fleetway, a figure of such national importance that Leadbrokes have quoted a range of prices for the actors who are the most likely to play him.

Favourites, at 4-1 are Nigel Havers or Clive Owen, while Jason Donovan is quoted at 50-1. Will Carling, the England rugby star, is at 200-1 while odds of 500-1 are given for Paul Gascoigne.

Media watch, page 28

## Toytown residents get used to war

Continued from page 1

plates, the Slovenian passports, the Free Slovenia T-shirts - have cleared off apparently to fight in the provinces.

If Slovenia ever wins its independence it will be ruled by an odd hybrid government, full of eccentrics (one minister collects parrots). Many are right wing and rigorously Roman Catholic; one recent emergency session was interrupted for prayers.

The talk of the town is the London Royal United Services Institute, which has secured something of a scoop. Its Spring 1991 issue prints articles by the two opposing defence brains in the present conflict: Admiral Branko Mamula and Dr Anton Bebler.

The admiral is the guru for some 15 Serbian generals in the Yugoslav army who are helping to stir up the current trouble. Dr Bebler is the Slovenian leader and the designer of the strategy of mounting resistance. Admiral Mamula's article is about how to keep Yugoslavia together. Dr Bebler's is about democracy and the army.

"I didn't know I would be sharing space with the admiral," said a baffled Dr Bebler. "British magazines seem to encourage strange bedfellows."



## Yugoslav forces pound nationalists

Continued from page 1

personnel carriers. As the armoured column crashed through hastily-erected barricades of cars and trucks, the crowd surged forward to within a few yards. Three more armoured columns were reported to have left other bases in the republic.

These were the first casualties inflicted by the federal army on Croatian civilians and the impact of the killings can only crank up the high tension in Zagreb. Local television has been showing non-stop coverage of the fighting between federal forces and Slovenian militia. The dispatch of an armoured regiment from its base on a Croatian territory and the use of Zagreb airport for MiGs and helicopter gunships flying missions inside Slovenia have further infuriated the Croatian government and its people.

In Belgrade, families of federal soldiers straggled to the Serbian parliament demand-

ing the return of their sons and fathers, and shouting "traitors" at deputies. They held

Meanwhile, the diplomatic efforts to halt the civil war continued, with the new federal president, Stipe Mesic, appealing again for a ceasefire. Mr Mesic went to Ljubljana with the Macedonian leader Vasil Tupurkovski yesterday afternoon for talks with Slovene leaders.

The conflict-prevention centre of the 35-nation CSCE also called for an immediate ceasefire at its inaugural meeting. It issued a statement underlining the importance of "an immediate and complete cessation of hostilities by all parties involved; and of a prompt implementation of the commitment, resulting from recent conversations among all concerned Yugoslav parties, to an immediate return to their barracks by all the relevant units of the Yugoslav army as well as the territorial defence forces of Slovenia."

### Political sketch

## Dame's devotion knows no bounds

DEFENCE questions seem to attract a mixture of the obvious and the exotic. Speaking for the obvious was Julian Brazier.

Captain Brazier (TA) is one of those tall, pale and entirely harmless young men whose natural destiny is to become an officer in the British army. All over the world you see them, fainting on parade. A regular at a regular with a boy-scout manner, Mr Brazier was there to impart to Tom King an important defence insight. In a European "rapid reaction" force, he told the secretary of state, "readiness is vital". With this, and with Mr Brazier's other observations about tank regiments, Mr King was happy to concur.

Next came the exotic. According to one of Labour's defence spokesmen, Dr John Reid, the government is now planning "the emasculation of the parachute regiment". So neutering the pit bull terriers was only a start? Which of us will be next? Which of the other regiments, if we are to believe worried Tory backbenchers: none more spectacularly worried than Dame Elaine Kellett-Bowman (C, Lancaster).

I had never seen this Dame as a camp follower, but her devotion to the King's Own Royal Border Regiment yesterday knew no bounds. Labour's Eric Martlew (Carlisle) was mildly voicing concern about their future when, all at once, the chamber was rocked by verbal explosions which would make a sergeant major blush. "Hear, hear!" she barked. "Quite right, hear, hear, hear!" She shot to her feet.

Other MPs craned round to see what was going on. Dame Elaine's famous eyebrows were yo-yo-ing up and down and her jaw was working overtime. "Call her, Mr Speaker," was the plea, spoken or unspoken, from reporters and MPs alike. But

Mr Speaker did not call her. He called young William Hague (C, Richmond) who put in a youthful plea for the Green Howards.

More explosions: "Rubbish!" shouted the Dame, pogo-ing to her feet, but it was not her lucky day. She left soon afterwards, stalking off with a curt half-nod in the Speaker's direction, her knuckles white as she gripped her handbag.

By now John Browne (C, Winchester) was leaping up too. Mr Browne was wearing a black top hat. Apparently he is trying to publicise a cause, but I shall not tell you what or it will encourage the rest of them to try false moustaches and funny noses. The thought of Mr Hague's Yorkshire neighbour, the massive Don Thompson (C, Calder Valley), coming out in support of his regiment wearing skin-tight pink Lycra cycling shorts is too awful to contemplate.

Think of it. A funeral John Browne, black top hat a-wobble, and an incandescent Dame Elaine, eyebrows beetling... What odd bed-fellows political causes make of their enthusiasts!

The same afternoon brought Leith's Ron Brown and Windsor's Dr Sir Alan Glyn together, united by their concern for Kurds. Ron Brown is Labour's de-selected "loony-left" eccentric, recently done for criminal damage involving his former mistress, knickers and a window.

Whether Dr Sir Alan, of crumpled suit and valise moustache, is more famous for being HM the Queen's member of parliament or for his offer (in his medical capacity) to certify dead the corpses of hanged murderers is moot. What is undeniable is that little Kurds at their mothers' breasts, now, in Kurdistan, cannot possibly know what a grotesque political union their plight forged yesterday.

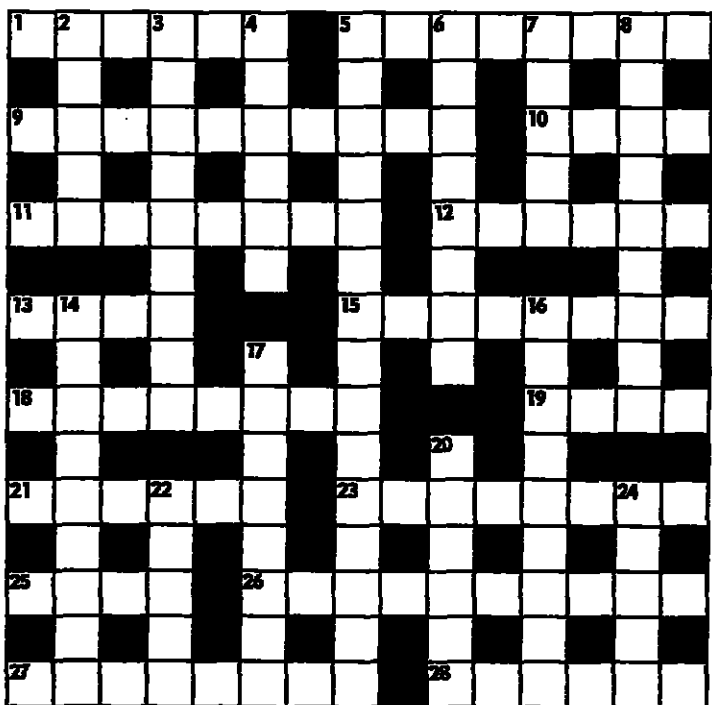
MATTHEW PARRIS

### TOMORROW IN THE TIMES

Flight operations: when the chief executive of Guy's hospital trust attacked 'jet setting consultants' he struck a chord - and a few nerves. What are these trips for and should they be stopped? Some of them produce practical benefits in British health treatment, others are more dubious. Victoria McKee investigates for *Times Health*

Hand in the till: fingerprints and other ways of matching skin tissue could soon replace PIN numbers and signatures as part of an attempt to reduce credit card and cash machine fraud. Nick Nuttall reports

### THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,648



#### ACROSS

- 1 Handful flowers (6)
- 5 Try the underground and get reaction there (4-4)
- 9 Water heater with tap in the kitchen (6-4)
- 10 Graduate students' hop (4)
- 11 Sweet presented in a bed of this kind (5-3)
- 12 Flush in dance with date (6)
- 13 Stick holding Oriental plant (4)
- 15 Joined the revolution, being in dire need (8)
- 18 Spill gin and it on piano facing wall (8)
- 19 Terrifying person - so backward (4)
- 21 Birkenhead sign in the grass (6)
- 23 Large reptile is around the ruins (8)
- 25 Heavy blow in this zone (4)

- 26 Railman helping in the dining car (7)
- 27 Recite an original version for repetition (8)
- 28 Fairly Red artist (6).

#### DOWN

- 2 Fool taking off leaders of the city (5)
- 3 Rancher sounds like an animal lover (9)
- 4 Sound move - its meaning is plain to the Russians (6)
- 5 Members tied in this event (5-6,4)
- 6 Vegetable in hamper is chopped up (8)
- 7 Gossiping woman in watered silk (5)
- 8 Singer of popular songs told the king about each one (9)
- 14 Running away from, say, fire-work inside (9)
- 16 Hurry up and put on your best bib and tucker (4,5)
- 17 Penalises play on words as too subtle (4-4)
- 20 Swarm in the ironstone (6)
- 22 Provide food for the animal king (5)
- 24 It helps the rule-makers in a Muslim country (5).

#### Solution to Puzzle No 18,647

MARKTIME SQUASH  
E H S U A I  
L A O I E S I N W A I T I N G  
E O A Z A K V H  
S E A T T L E P R O V E R B  
T R R P T A  
E A P R E S K I E X T O L  
E A T T I C M A G N O L I A  
Q A O V R D  
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Q O A I E R A  
T H R O W I N G N E S H A N D  
U A A A C E T L  
M A L A Y A T H I E V E R Y

#### WORD WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

By Philip Howard

#### SKERICKS

a. Snow sickness

b. Rubber boots

c. A rascal

TILBURY

a. A kind of small boat

b. A pig for two

c. A backhand ace stroke

ELTCHI

a. A primitive Greek letter

b. Distilled pine resin

c. An ambassador

SALIGOT

a. A water chestnut

b. A dirty villain

c. An aster-cheesecake

Answers on page 18

#### AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0836 401 followed by the appropriate code

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M-ways/roads M4-M11 732

M-ways/roads M1-Carlisle 733

M-ways/roads M23-M4 734

M25 London Orbital only 735

Northern Ireland

Northern Ireland 736

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Northern Ireland 757

WEATHER Northern Ireland, southern and central Scotland starting mostly dry, but outbreaks of rain will spread northwards. Some brighter spells in afternoon. Southern England and Wales mostly dry and cloudy. Becoming brighter, but scattered showers developing. Rest of England and Wales cloudy with some rain. Turning brighter with scattered showers. Outlook: staying unsettled, humid with showers

ABERDEEN

MONDAY: 1st thunder, 2nd drizzle, 3rd fog, 4th sun, 5th rain, 6th sun, 7th rain, 8th sun, 9th rain, 10th sun, 11th rain, 12th sun, 13th rain, 14th sun, 15th rain, 16th sun, 17th rain, 18th sun, 19th rain, 20th sun, 21st rain, 22nd sun, 23rd rain, 24th sun, 25th rain, 26th sun, 27th rain, 28th sun, 29th rain, 30th sun, 31st rain

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## Tace is rocked by rival offers

TACE, the troubled environmental controls group, was rocked by rival takeover bids within 40 minutes.

Managers of American subsidiaries of Tace tabled a 254p share cash offer, then resigned to join STAC, the bidding vehicle backed by Stephens, the American investment house. But their offer was topped by Thermo Electron Corporation, also American, with a recommended cash offer worth 255p a share, valuing Tace at £24.9 million.

Thermo has also bid 205p a share for the 48.9 per cent of Goring Kerr not owned by Tace, valuing the fully quoted associate at £7.6 million. After discussions with the takeover panel, STAC is not making a bid for Goring Kerr.

Both STAC and Thermo announced their offers after the formal close of trading on the London Stock Exchange. Tace shares closed down 2p at 228p, while Goring Kerr was unchanged at 198p.

The rival bids comfortably beat an existing offer by Britain's Cambridge Electronics, valuing Tace at £23.9 million. Cambridge, which has made a parallel offer for Goring Kerr, has irrevocable undertakings from Jock MacKenzie, a former chairman of Tace, and his family, in respect of their 23 per cent stake.

However, Tace withdrew its recommendation for Cambridge's 244.4p all-shares offer after the appointment of a new board, led by Michael Bockett, after pressure from institutional shareholders. The Cambridge cash alternative was worth 220p a share.

**Crest chief quits**  
Roger Lewis is to step down as chief executive of Crest Nicholson, the housebuilding and property group, after eight years. His departure follows interim pre-tax losses of £33.9 million for the six months to end-April, against a profit of £572,000 the year before. There is no interim dividend. (3p)

Tempos, page 23

## Unprecedented coalition makes call

# Lamont urged to target zero inflation

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE government will be urged today by an unprecedented coalition of industrialists and trade unions to adopt formally a target of zero inflation within three years.

The call will be put directly to Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, as he chairs the quarterly meeting of the joint government-industry-unions National Economic Development Council.

The specific pressure for a precise inflation target within a tightly defined timescale may well place Mr Lamont in the highly embarrassing position of having to reject it. Though ministers want to see inflation reduced as far as possible, they will be wary of agreeing to a particular date for any level of inflation, let alone zero inflation, to be achieved for fear of Labour being able to use any target against the government were it not to be reached.

Treasury officials are likely to be cautious about what they may well see as a trap for the government and a tacit invitation for it to overreach itself economically, though industrial and union leaders will regard it as a one-off improvement in Britain's economic performance.

The proposal will be put in a confidential paper prepared for today's meeting by the leading industrialists and union leaders who chair the council's subsidiary groups covering specific industrial sectors. The joint memorandum is the first time in the 29-

year history of the NEDC that the sector chairmen have acted in concert in this way.

NEDC refuses to discuss the detail of council papers in advance, but the council's office said the paper contained "robust recommendations for helping the UK to achieve the same level of success as Germany and Japan have enjoyed over the last three decades". The chairmen's unprecedented memorandum is backed by a substantial paper by Dr Walter Eris, NEDC director general, on the superior economic performance of Germany and Japan.

The chairmen's document, entitled *Partners for the Long Term: Lessons from the Success of Germany and Japan*, is expected to call for a target of near-zero inflation over the next three years. Inflation, currently at 5.8 per cent, has fallen for seven months in succession from a high of 10.9 per cent last autumn, and is expected to fall again next week on its way to the government's forecast level of 4 per cent later this year.

The document, which is due to be published fully later today by NEDC, is understood to insist that there has to be a national commitment to such a target from all those involved in the economy, including the government, industry, unions, banks and the political parties. It is also expected to call for a number of detailed micro-economic recommendations.

The idea of a zero inflation target will bring into play two key ideas: the value of pay

restraint and the idea of an independent central bank in the UK. The paper has been agreed by such key industrial figures as Sir John Cuckney, chairman of 3i, Sir Bryan Wolfson who chairs the government's training task force, and Ian Gibson, managing director of Nissan GB. Also signatories are the heads of two leading business schools, the London Business School and the London School of Economics, and the leaders of the EETPU electricians and AEU engineering unions.

Though documents prepared for the council are not publicly discussed before its meetings, they are circulated to council members beforehand, and Treasury, Bank of England and other officials have been aware of the chairmen's zero inflation proposal for some time.

The Chancellor chairs NEDC meetings twice a year, and the Treasury will have noted that the chairmen's unprecedented paper has been carefully tabled to be taken at a meeting at which Mr Lamont is due to preside.

Much of the thrust of German and Japanese economic policy is towards a target of zero inflation. While unification is holding Germany at an inflation rate of 3 per cent, policy is expected to be aimed at a zero target before long. Low inflation based on such policy targets has produced lower interest rates in Japan and Germany, allowing businesses to borrow more cheaply and so compete more effectively in world markets.



American way: United and American, together yesterday at Heathrow for the first time, prepare to challenge BA

## US rivals challenge BA at Heathrow

By JON ASHWORTH

AMERICA'S top two airlines, American and United, are for the first time challenging British Airways from Heathrow airport. American Airlines launched its first regular flights to North America from Heathrow yesterday, directly rivaling United Airlines, which began scheduled services in April.

American, which has eight daily flights between Britain and North America, plans to make London its gateway to the United States. United has 16 daily flights to North America and continental Europe.

Bob Crandall, chairman of American, yesterday said the move to Heathrow would cost up to \$2 billion, but added that London had an essential part to play in his global "hub and spoke" network.

United was cleared to take over Pan Am's Heathrow operations in March. American won tentative approval soon after to buy TWA's routes from London to Boston, New York and Los Angeles.

The two airlines have most recently been fighting over the lucrative route between Chicago and London.

Other new entrants to terminal three at Heathrow this week include Virgin Atlantic, All Nippon Airways and Emirates Airlines. Their arrival will be welcomed by BAA, the airport owners.

## Top 200 airlines lose £1.6bn

# Carriers struggle to stay airborne as gloom deepens

From HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT, IN GENEVA

INTERNATIONAL airlines are bleeding to death as they struggle to recover from losses that were running at more than £16 million a day in the first three months of this year.

The slump in earnings after the collapse in passenger numbers because of the Gulf war came on top of the worst financial year suffered by the 200 leading airlines, which lost £1.6 billion last year.

Günter Eser, the director general of the International Air Transport Association, said: "The financial condition of a number of airlines is now critical". Twenty-five of IATA's 200 members have ceased trading within the last 18 months.

Fears are growing that dozens of airlines could fold as those that are privately owned are forced into bankruptcy and governments withdraw support from state-owned flag carriers.

With no sign of any real recovery on the horizon the airlines are also faced with finding another £300 billion to buy thousands of new aircraft

that will be needed over the next ten years to replace old fleets. High interest rates, escalating airport and navigation charges, the threatened imposition of VAT on tickets sold in Europe, the ending of duty free sales and the general decline in first and business class passengers all add up to the gloomiest outlook in the industry's history.

In their fight for survival, the carriers are to target the proliferation of taxes that they regard as "unfair, unscrupulous and hidden", but that are being imposed by governments that see airlines as a "cash cow" to help bolster national finances.

The airlines plan to put a "health warning" on airline tickets showing passengers just how much they are paying in hidden taxes, which can add considerably to the price of tickets. Every passenger leaving Britain, for example, pays up to £14 in hidden fees. Eight separate taxes on travel within or from America raise almost £5 billion annually for the government, the tourist

industry and even for the funding of animal and plant inspection teams.

Australia has just doubled its departure tax, while treasuries around the world have imposed 600 separate taxes on arriving or departing passengers.

While governments raise their fees and taxes, they are also pressing for more competition and lower air fares, claim the airlines, which are trapped between raising fares to cover their spiralling costs and so losing even more passengers or lowering them to increase their passenger load and so sending their profit and loss account even further into the red.

Despite large scale short-term fare reductions, the longer-term prospects for improved services and lower fares for passengers are remote. Instead, airlines are again having to look at their costs, including more staff cuts and delaying taking delivery of new aircraft.

Comment, page 23

## Power profits surge

By MARTIN WALLER

FURTHER profit increases far in excess of those promised in the prospectus when the electricity distribution industry was floated late last year have been announced by Eastern Electricity, the biggest of the 12 companies, and Yorkshire Electricity.

Both, however, are sticking to dividend forecasts made at the time, Eastern making a maiden payment of 10.12p and Yorkshire one of 10.81p. Neither chairman would disclose salary rises for senior executives last year, but James Porteous, of Yorkshire, promised: "They will be substantial." His counterpart at Eastern, James Smith, said: "It depends what you would call substantial."

Yorkshire came in with pre-tax profits of £134.6 million for the year to end-March, against a prospectus forecast of £115.6 million. Eastern's

figure was £130.6 million, against £112.4 million forecast. The increases came because of higher than expected units distributed, after the winter proved to be less mild than had been expected by the government's advisers to the flotation, and lower than expected electricity purchase costs. Both companies also saw lower than forecast interest charges.

Eastern's contracting and retailing businesses made small losses last year, after provisions for bad and doubtful debts had to be increased to £10.6 million from a

prospectus forecast of £6 million.

Eastern is considering legal action against British Gas over contracts to supply its Coryton power station in Essex, to be built in a joint venture with Mobil Oil, after the decision by British Gas to raise its prices, but Mr Smith says that he is optimistic that the two sides "can do a deal".

Yorkshire has made heavy inroads into the industry's more volatile supply side, and supplies businesses throughout England and Wales.

Tempos, page 23

## GEC warns of job losses

By MICHAEL TATE, CITY EDITOR

LORD Weinstock, managing director of General Electric Company, gave warning yesterday of more job losses at the electronics group, in addition to the 11,000 redundancies last year.

"The process of reducing costs has not gone far enough. I am afraid there will be further job losses."

The warning accompanied news of profits down from £372 million to £318 million in the year to end-March, although Lord Prior, the chairman, said they would have been higher but for £40 million in rationalisation payments, mostly redundancy payments,

and the £24 million adverse effect of currency movements.

During the year, the group spent £256 million on fixed assets and more than £1 billion on research and development, but still emerged with net cash of £948 million.

For the first time in more than a decade, shareholders must forgo a rise in the dividend. They will receive a same-sized 6.7p final payment, making an unchanged 9.25p for the year, which is twice covered by earnings.

Lord Prior and Lord Weinstock said they would not be taking pay increases this year in the light of the dividend

freeze, but both admitted the decision would not affect their salaries for the year under review. These would be disclosed in the annual report and accounts, due in August, and would show "large increases in some cases".

Lord Weinstock, commenting on the dispute over boardroom pay, said: "In general levels of pay are too low. Some get too much, we get too little."

In the year ended March 1990, Lord Weinstock earned £365,000 and Lord Prior £113,000.

Comment, page 23



Porteous: beat forecast

## Walker beats the count for now

By MATTHEW BOND

GEORGE Walker survived an attempt to oust him as a director of Brent Walker, the leisure company he helped to found more than 30 years ago.

After an acrimonious extraordinary meeting at London's Café Royal yesterday, shareholders voted for Mr Walker, his wife, Jean, and John Hemingway, a non-executive director, to stay on the board. Although a majority of proxy votes supported the resolutions to oust the three directors, the 75 per cent majority required for the resolutions to be passed was not met. A poll of shareholders revealed about 11 million shares voted in favour of the directors being removed and 9.3 million against.

At the meeting, Mr Walker said the votes cast against him included 4.75 million owned by his family but now controlled by TSB Group, which holds the shares as security against a loan.

The hostile tone of the egn was set by Mr Walker interrupting the opening words of Lord Kindersley, Brent Walk-

er's chairman, and grew more heated. As it became clear that the proxy votes were not sufficient to remove Mr Walker, he shouted: "There is no way, even using my own shares, that they can vote me, John and my wife off the board."

That the vote was taken at all represented a reverse for Lord Kindersley, who had proposed that although the resolution would be put to the meeting, a final poll would not be taken for another two weeks. But after two and half hours of noisy protest from shareholders supporting Mr Walker, Lord Kindersley relented and a vote was taken.

During the meeting, he indicated that Mr Walker's presence on the board was endangering final approval of the £1.4 billion financial reconstruction. "A lot of the banks are in the process of making up their minds and to see this sort of dissension is not helping to give the banks confidence."

Lord Kindersley said that without the continued support of its banks, Brent Walker would have ceased trading some

time go. Until the reconstruction is agreed, that threat remains, although he said the first stage, a £20 million facility to provide working capital, had been agreed on Monday night.

Mr Walker and Mr Hemingway said they objected to being removed before the final refinancing proposals had been agreed and before shareholders had voted on them. Mr Walker said: "If I sit here on this board, you can guarantee that my interest will firstly be in the company and secondly in the shareholders. When I know that the refinancing package is acceptable by you and you wish me to resign, I would resign."

The battle between Mr Walker and the new Brent Walker looks set to continue. The board is thought to be considering putting the same resolutions to an ordinary meeting, when a vote would require a simple 50 per cent majority. Mr Hemingway called for an early annual meeting at which shareholders could approve the appointment of directors who have joined since the last meeting.

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## Trading conditions are toughest for 20 years, says Sears

By GEORGE SIVELL

SEARS, the Selfridges department store, Dolcis shoe shops and Freemans mail order group, has described trading in its first half as the worst for more than 20 years.

Geoffrey Maitland Smith, the chairman, told shareholders that "for the first five months of this financial year, trading has been very tough, particularly in comparison with the same period of last year".

Mr Maitland Smith said: "I expect conditions to remain difficult through the remain-

der of the first half, although I hope for some improvement later in the year.

"However, the first half has had to deal with major factors such as the continuing crisis in the Gulf, which badly hit tourism, particularly in London, the deepening recession, the increase in VAT, which alone has cost us approximately £7.5 million of margin, and, of course, the recent dismal summer weather.

"All these factors have come together and created the worst trading conditions

experienced in over 20 years. I am confident that our strong management teams, a superb portfolio of businesses and our financial strength, will not only see us through this difficult period, but also will ensure that we are well placed for the next economic upturn.

"Like last year, the rise in the cost base is an additional problem to the lack of sales, particularly because of the inability to shed marginal shops fast enough. Even the welcome drop in inflation to below 6 per cent is insufficient to make up for increases in rents, the uniform business rate, wages and prices charged by the national utilities - all showing increases greater than the retail prices index."

When Sears reported a fall in full-year profits from £231 million to £147 million in May, Mr Maitland Smith warned shareholders that "future levels of dividend must depend on the future performance of our businesses". Yesterday, he said that it was no more than prudent to say that dividends must depend on performance, but added: "I want you to know that your board is well aware of the importance of reliable income levels to all shareholders and we will do our best for them within the constraints imposed upon us by trading conditions and prospects." Softening the line on cutting the dividend left Sears shares up 1p at 73p.



Talks about talks: John Major meeting Hari Shankar Singhania, left, the ICC vice-president, and Joseph Connor, the president, at Downing Street yesterday

## Major hears plea on trade

By COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

ACHIEVING a successful conclusion to the stalled world trade talks must be the main issue at the London economic summit, international businessmen told John Major yesterday. The delegation from the International Chamber of Commerce urged the prime minister, host to the Group of Seven leaders on July 15-17,

to ensure that the summit redeems the G7's pledge, made last year, to take tough political decisions needed to complete the Uruguay Round on freer world trade.

The chamber's assessment of the world economy is less optimistic than that reported by the G7 finance ministers last month. Failure of the

trade talks is seen as a serious threat to global growth. Although the chamber sees recovery beginning in America, it detects scant signs of pick-up elsewhere.

Downing Street described Mr Major's one-hour meeting with the businessmen as "friendly and profitable", underlining the importance he attached to an agreement on the trade talks this year.

Joseph Connor, the ICC president, said that without movement on the question of subsidies to agriculture, which deadlocked the talks in December, there would be no progress in other areas. If the round failed after four and half years, he foresaw a return to bilateral trade deals, trading blocs and managed trade. However, he still considered it "realistically possible" to reach agreement this year.

The ICC urged G7 leaders to provide "strong political leadership" over trade, to pursue sound monetary policies, to promote investment and to work with business on the environment. It called for western aid to the Soviet Union to be withheld until the country pursues a market system with more determination.

### BUSINESS ROUNDUP

## MBOs increase in number and value

MANAGEMENT buyouts are coming back into fashion, according to KPMG Peat Marwick McLintock, the accountant, with 12 MBOs over the value of £10 million completed in the second quarter of this year, against seven in the first quarter. The value of large MBOs in the second quarter has also grown, swollen by three of more than £100 million - Taunton Cider at £101 million, Devro at £108 million and Field Packaging at £121 million.

The level of debt involved in the management packages has fallen markedly in the past two years. The ratio of equity to borrowing has fallen from 1:5.9 in the first half of 1989 to 1:1.3 in the first half of this year. Peats said: "Banks are reluctant to lend. Although equity financiers have invested steadily at just under £300 million in each of the last three half years, there is a limit to what they can do with so little support."

## Farepak rises 27% to £3.7m

FAREPAK, the mail order distributor and food processor, lifted pre-tax profits 27 per cent to £3.7 million in the year to end-April. Bob Johnson, chairman, said orders for this Christmas were strong. Earnings per share rose to 22.1p (17p). The final dividend is 5.44p (4.05p), making an improved total of 7.74p (5.95p) for the year. The board proposes a one-for-one share split.

## Profits held at pipe firm

WALKER & Staff Holdings, the valve and pipework distributor, made unchanged pre-tax profits of £389,000 in the year to the end of March. Turnover climbed from £8.07 million to £8.53 million. Earnings per share slipped to 11p (11.1p). The proposed single dividend is raised to 3.3p for the year, against 3p last time. The shares were unchanged at 115p.

## Pentland in Pony deal

PENTLAND Group, the consumer goods company, has acquired the brand name and trade marks of Pony International, the American sports footwear and clothing brand, from Adidas for an undisclosed sum. Pentland has been the British licensee of Pony since 1979.

Pentland, which acquired the Speedo international swimwear business and disposed of the bulk of its stake in Reebok, the American sports shoe manufacturer, plans to keep Pony as an American company, but intends to undertake its day-to-day management from Britain.

## Evans rises to £8.04m

SHARES in Evans of Leeds rose 12p to 122p after the property group announced taxable profits up from £7.55 million to £8.04 million. Earnings a share were 9.44p (7.86p) and a final dividend of 2.65p makes 3.74p (3.4p) for the year. Gross rental income was £16.01 million (£13.43 million), while profits from property sales and development were £2.08 million (£768,000).

## Mowat cash call flops

MOWAT shareholders have shunned the property and leisure company's £10 million cash call. Acceptances have been received for just 4 per cent of the new shares, leaving the rest with the underwriter, Societe Generale Merchant Bank, and sub-underwriters. Shares were offered in a one-for-one rights issue in May at 11p, exceeding yesterday's unchanged 94p closing price.

## Bett issues warning

BETT Brothers, the Scottish housebuilder and property developer, gave warning of "a significant loss" for the year to end-August because of provisions against the declining value of development properties in southern England. The company forecast a total dividend of no more than 4.2p a share, compared with 6.4p last time, when pre-tax profits were maintained at £4.3 million.

Directors said the provisions represented "a prudent and conservative view" in the light of the most difficult property market for many years. Bett shares fell 15p to 125p.

## Colorvision profits tumble 44%

THE recession and reduced margins cut pre-tax profits at Colorvision, the television and video recorder retailer, by 44 per cent to £1.94 million in the six months to end-March. Group turnover rose 14 per cent to £29.1 million (£25.6 million), although this was

largely due to the opening of more shops, making a total of 78. Like-for-like sales were down by about 5 per cent, although this still compares favourably with a market down by about 12 per cent. Alan Tinger, the managing director, said: "We increased market share, although there was a slight drop in margins." The interim dividend is held at 2.5p on earnings per share down to 6.19p (11.11p). The board expects to declare a maintained second interim dividend of 3.1p. The shares lost 11p to 130p.

## Smaller firms win export awards

By DEREK HARRIS

TWO companies involved in heavy industries that have traditionally been dominated by a few big companies were among five winners of this year's top export awards for smaller businesses.

Starkey's Technicast, formed 20 years ago, uses continuous casting to make iron bars at its plant at Hull, north Humberside.

The company won recognition for achieving a consistently high quality for its specialised product, and £2.5 million worth, or 70 per cent, of production goes abroad. Exports of Starkey's technically advanced ductile iron have increased five-fold over the past three years.

Acrastyle, of Ulverston, Cumbria, designs and makes electrical equipment for power transmission and distribution systems, another industry dominated by a few big operators. It also exports 70 per cent of its products.

In 1978, Rautomead, of Dundee, Tayside, developed a process for continuous casting of non-ferrous metals. Consistent investment in research has since allowed the process to be applied to more sectors. The company exports 90 per cent of production.

The other winners were Linx Printing Technologies of St Ives, Cambridgeshire, and B A Peters, which is based at Chichester marina, West Sussex, and distributes luxury motor cruisers.

The awards are sponsored by the British Overseas Trade Board, Reed Information Services, Midland Bank and Price Waterhouse, the accountant.

# EASTERN ELECTRICITY STRIKING THE RIGHT BALANCE

Preliminary Results for the year ended 31 March 1991

Turnover	£1720.1m
Actual pre-tax profit	£ 130.6m
Pro-forma pre-tax profit	£ 106.4m
Actual earnings per share	35.7p
Pro-forma earnings per share	29.8p
Recommended dividend per share	10.12p

"The results for the year augur well for the future and provide a sound basis for profit growth"

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Nottingham Derby Peterborough Reading Sherborne  
South Mimms Southampton Stevenage Stratford-upon-Avon  
Swindon Taunton Teeside Wakefield  
Walsall Washington York



# Champagne and tears in the air

## COMMENT

Champagne and tears were much in evidence at Heathrow in the past 36 hours to celebrate the arrival of transatlantic flights from Virgin, United Airlines and American Airlines. The newcomers all profess themselves delightedly happy at winning access to Europe's most important landfall and were clearly in party mood. Airline economists however will wonder why the razzmatazz?

In Geneva IATA, the airlines' trade association was gathered to discuss the plight of an industry on its uppers. About 25 of IATA's members have gone out of business in the past year and a half. Aggregate losses have been clocking up at the rate of £16 million per day during the first quarter of the year. If the champagne flowed in Geneva, it was mingled with a liberal mix of tears.

These tales from two cities appear contradictory. But survival, not hype, is top of the agenda for most airlines. For many years, the world's leading international carriers have grown accustomed to a steady real growth in business

and have planned far into the future on the basis that it will continue into the blue yonder. In the drive to keep ahead or catch up with the competition, to save through fuel-efficient jets and to clean up noise and air pollution, the airlines plan to spend close on £300 billion over the next decade buying new aircraft. After the sudden loss of traffic induced by the Gulf war and the further contraction as businessmen face the realities of recessionary times, airlines face a bleak future.

Some, like American, will try to spend their way out of trouble. American Airlines' investment in its newly-acquired routes to Heathrow may eventually reach \$2 billion before it establishes itself on the previously lucrative North Atlantic routes. Others can scarcely avoid the backwash of cheap fares and giveaways which are inevitable when the giants of the industry lock in battle for each others' market share.

Against this backdrop, British

Airways is pedalling furiously to retain its business and its profit base, though profit is a commodity which will be hard to come by this year. BA's response will eventually go far beyond the severe job losses and cost-cutting already in hand. It is examining every component of its operations with an ultra-critical eye.

Does British Airways need to be in computer services, engineering or catering? These non-core activities are accidents of history and by no means intrinsic to the running of an airline. All can be bought in and the benefits of direct ownership are by no means clear any longer.

BA will do well to break even this year. For non-trading profits such as aircraft sales will be difficult and the group's borrowings are taking an increasingly significant bite into revenues.

With the exception of Virgin, which has successfully won government assistance for its policy of cherry picking profitable routes, the celebrations at Heathrow will be short lived. For Britain's leading carrier, unbundling its assets may prove the best strategy to protect shareholders from losses and missed dividends.

## GEC's cash

Not since the days of compulsory dividend restraint have shareholders in GEC failed to receive an increase in their dividend. Until now. So upset is Lord Weinstock, we are led to understand, that he will not take a pay rise this year.

Neither will Lord Prior, his chairman, though both admitted

yesterday, after some pressure, that the salaries on which they will not receive increases are the considerably fatter ones that they have already accepted for the year just ended.

Their lordships' somewhat flippant contribution to the rumour over boardroom pay — "some get too much, we get too little" — may rankle not just with employees, 11,000 of whom lost their jobs last year, but with shareholders, too, given the restraint imposed on them.

GEC might have inched up its dividend without overstretching a balance sheet stuffed with £948 million in cash, but Lord Weinstock's caution is now legendary, and perhaps it was no surprise that he passed over the option.

Lord Weinstock has never been embarrassed by GEC's cash mountain, but it has clearly given rise to a source of irritation over the years. Shareholders want fatter dividend cheques, suppliers want paying earlier, the

stock market thinks the company should be doing deals.

However, Lord Weinstock himself points out that the company would have been better off last year had the money spent on the Plessey and Ferranti acquisitions been left in the bank.

Among the more serious questions facing GEC is its ability to compensate for the expected slowdown in defence orders, which apparently still account for two-thirds of a slightly lower than expected £10.6 billion order book. The progress of the GEC Alstom power systems venture, which improved in local currency terms, and the GPT telecommunications business, where profits rose 17 per cent, would appear to bear out boardroom confidence here, and justify a £1 billion plus annual research and design bill.

Just how adequately GEC, better known as a defensive stock in the past, is geared to respond to economic upturn when it comes, is less easy to gauge. Pay and dividend freezes suggest that the board is not completely sure, either.

## Recession derails profits at embattled and unloved BR

WHEN ministers need an example to show why Britain needs a citizens' charter, they reach for British Rail. When economists need an example to show how hard the recession is biting, they reach the same way. British Rail will today give both groups further ammunition.

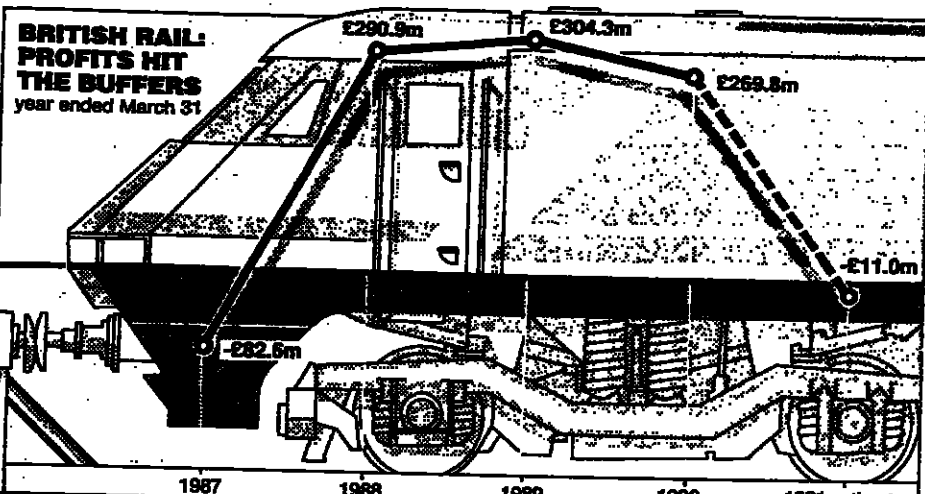
Sir Bob Reid, BR's still relatively new chairman, will this morning announce a dire set of results. Analysts are predicting a plunge from a profit last year — the third in a row — of £270 million to a loss of £20 million. The figure may well be actually only a little over half that — a loss of about £11 million.

The recession will be blamed. The downturn in the economy has hit BR hard in three key areas. Tight times for business and domestic customers have cut their travelling, though fare increases and inflation have kept passenger revenue above last year's £1.5 billion. Freight income, though, has fallen from last year's £672 million. Freight volume was down as recession affected some bulk-moving industries, such as construction. BR is closing its Speedlink wagonload service this month.

Both pale, however, compared with property. Having discovered vast spaces around and above stations — BR's new building hunched over Charing Cross station is a startling addition to the capital's riverside, though largely an empty one — the dramatic slump in the property market has hammered BR's income from the development and sale of its property. It will be down by two-thirds from last year's record £412 million. Of all BR's businesses, only InterCity made a profit.

BR's acute financial difficulties and more adroit Whitehall lobbying led Sir Bob to seize the opportunity afforded by the sudden conversion to rail of Malcolm Rifkind, the new transport secretary.

Far from Margaret Thatcher's near-total refusal even to travel by train in an environment she regarded as stained by the worst stains of public sector mismanagement, Mr Rifkind was filmed cheerily climbing aboard a 125. A few



weeks later, the canny Sir Bob was praising as "a substantial move in the right direction". Mr Rifkind's agreement, torn out of the Treasury, to an extra £400 million in government grants and loans to ease BR's financial pain.

BR has, indeed, had a hard year of it. Not only financially squeezed, it was sharply criticised over safety after the Cannon Street crash in January in which two people died and is currently being investigated by the Health and Safety Executive over people dying after falling from moving trains.

Hit by the wrong sort of snow in the winter and terror-

productivity has gone down this year BR personnel managers glumly admit — the government's commitment to privatising BR becomes ever stronger. While the argument about how it is to be done is not resolved, it is clear that it will be done if the Conservatives are re-elected. In advance of that, BR is clearing up its internal act, again, with the latest in a long line of management and operational reorganisations.

This one is called OQ, a snappy acronym for Organising for Quality, and is designed to split BR into five key businesses, such as InterCity, parcels and regional railways.

BR is still the subject of passenger fuming and election-eyed ministers' concern over its service performance

ist bombs later at its London stations, it is still the subject of passenger fuming and election-eyed ministers' concern over its service performance.

The government may now be easing away from the give-back arrangements originally envisaged for its citizens' charter, but BR still acts as an annual report is expected to show no improvement over the last five years in the proportion of trains on InterCity and Network South-east arriving within a stated limit of their due time. With that kind of record — staff

A decade ago, BR's then-chairman, Sir Peter Parker, enthusiastically talked of little else but such a structure. Now, BR is owning up to that the change effected then was largely cosmetic, and did little to wrest real power away from the six BR regions, which mirrored the old pre-nationalisation companies.

OQ is supposed to sweep the regions away, to provide for real, bottom-line responsibility for each separate business. BR managers stoutly deny union claims that this is a move to prepare the railways for piecemeal privatisation.

PHILIP BASSETT  
Industrial Editor

## Why Yorkshire deserves to win the accolades

### TEMPUS

TRUST the thrifty Yorkshiremen to keep tight control on their brass. When the 12 regional electricity companies were privatised last year, Yorkshire Electricity howled longest and loudest over the debt that government was loading on to the industry.

Yet the most eye-catching number in a slew of figures issued by Yorkshire and the larger Eastern Electricity yesterday is that Yorkshire's gearing, forecast at 39 per cent in the prospectus, has come out at just 22 per cent and cannot but fall further.

The company says there is no connection between this and its decision to take a majority equity stake in any power generation projects into which it enters. But Yorkshire, which has chosen to be a strong player in the supply market, will clearly have the financial muscle to move into generation to whatever extent the regulator will allow.

Eastern is having to consider legal action against British Gas over a generation project, the venture with Mobil Oil at Coryton, but is well down the road on others. Diversification into telecoms and data communications is likely after a too-in-the-water fibre optics contract worth £2 million with Mercury. Eastern's gearing is a more respectable 38 per cent, down 4 percentage points on the forecast.

Both companies have been

able without ill effects to spend substantially less in the last financial year than expected before the float and have seen profits beat forecasts, following the pattern set by other distributors.

Eastern made pre-tax profits of £130.6 million, £18.2 million ahead of prospectus, despite the worsening economy, and cut capital spending by £34 million to £110 million. Yorkshire made £134.6 million pre-tax, £19 million ahead of forecast, and trimmed its spending programme by £8 million to £76 million.

Yorkshire, with its heavy industrial customer base, benefited less from the cold winter, which boosted domestic demand. But the relative resilience of the economy sent underlying demand up 2 per cent last year, against 1.6 per cent from Eastern. Such small differences are crucial; one lesson of this results round is that even small demand increases

feed straight through to the profits line, and regional economic trends suggest that of the two regions, demand should hold up better this year in Yorkshire.

That company has long been a City favourite, and the prospective yield is at the lower end for the sector at 6.6 per cent. Eastern offers 6.9 per cent, but Yorkshire long term still looks the one to back.

## Crest Nicholson

UNTIL yesterday, Crest Nicholson's only concession to the property recession was to have made a £3 million provision at the time of last year's results. That was never going to be enough, and yesterday the train hit the buffers, after the board finally gave the company's assets the scrutiny they might well have received before February's prelims.

The result was a £21 million

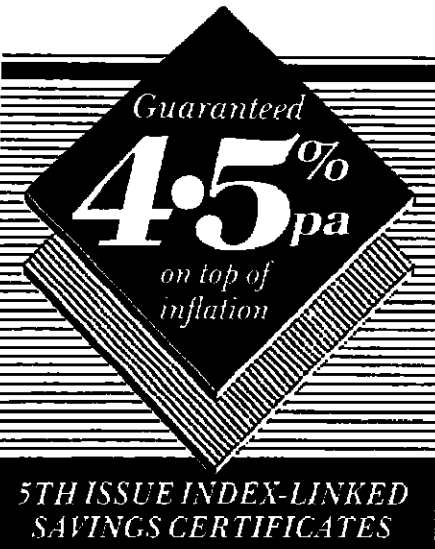
provision — £9 million in write-downs of its 3,000-unit residential land bank and £12 million against its commercial property portfolio. Combined with a plunge into £6.6 million of operating losses and a more-than-doubled interest charge, the provisions resulted in a pre-tax loss of £33.9 million in the six months to April, compared to a loss of £572,000 the year before.

Three further casualties were the interim dividend, which was scrapped (3p); the shares, down 20p to 62p; and the chief executive, Roger Lewis, replaced by John Callcutt, formerly managing director of group operations.

Crest's survival plan is to sell its commercial developments, which, when complete, will have cost the company £115 million, and use proceeds to reduce group debt. At the half year, that was £104 million, giving gearing of 82 per cent. On the residential side, the plan is to sell more houses at a lower unit cost, with 1,700 units at an average price of £78,000 pencilled in for this year, against 1,367 units and £100,000 last year.

Having provided so late in the cycle, little further damage is expected at the full year, although losses could have risen to £36 million. However, given the prospects for selling commercial property and new houses, recovery will be slow and painful. Avoid.

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## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

### Surprise move to DG Bank

TO THE surprise of City observers, Julian Cooper has left the corporate finance team at County NatWest for the much smaller London office of DG Bank, Germany's third largest bank. Cooper, who would have clocked up seven years at County this week had he stayed, is due to line up mergers and acquisitions as head of transaction management. "The atmosphere is like that at County five years ago: young and growing," says Cooper, who hopes to pick up a smattering of German in his new role. DG's London office started life as a boutique last year but is expanding fast.

Manufacturers' message seen on a can of room freshener, bought in Australia: "Bring the clean, natural freshness of a country meadow indoors. Freshen the air in your home with a clean, back-to-nature scent — as refreshing as the summer grass and fragrant flowers of a country meadow."

WARNING: inhaling the contents can be harmful or fatal.

### High fliers

HARRY Oppenheimer, head of the powerful South African mining family, must be pleased with the progress of Jonathan, his grandson, aged 21. Following a family tradition, Jonathan, an old Etonian, is now at Oxford where he has been proving his worth as a cricketer. He has been singled out as one of the fast-bowlers to watch this season, no doubt to the delight of his father, Nicholas, who has his own cricket team. Nicholas, deputy chairman of De Beers, is based in London at the moment and sometimes flies himself to work by helicopter, landing on the roof of his offices in Charterhouse Street.

### Upping the anti

PERUVIANS have had to contend with rampant inflation, terrorism and a cholera epidemic. Now they have two different currencies. The new sol, which is worth 1 million

intis, has been designated as the official currency but will not enter into circulation until October. "Think and write in new sols but charge and pay in intis," read a headline in *El Comercio* newspaper. If only it were that simple. Banks have requested that the intis denomination remain in effect on chequebooks until the end of the year, adding to the confusion.

A CENTRAL London bank manager, seeking repayment of a hefty overdraft, has received the following short letter from the customer: "If I am such a poor risk, how did I get this deep in debt?"

### Naming of arts

FACED with ever-rising losses, the names at Lloyd's are selling off the family silver... in a manner of speaking. Hogg Insurance Brokers is promoting a scheme that allows names to raise money against works of art. "If the worst comes to the worst it is better to sell off the family silver than the family home," says Hogg's Henry

Colthurst, who hosts a party at Sotheby's next week for members' agents and accountants. One name has raised £700,000 against a painting, and tables and ornate mirrors are all going into the pot.

### Moore merriment

NICHOLAS Moore, who runs the employment department at Hill Taylor Dickinson, the City law firm, is renowned for being no friend of the trade unions in Britain. So he was intrigued to see his name appear on a list of union representatives with a note attached that read: "Please send a copy of this to Nicholas Moore to save time when the need arises to serve injunctions." Moore, who spends many of his working hours hurling writs at trade unions, feels that his efforts have now been well and truly recognised at last. But he has had the foresight to arm himself with a portable telephone and a copy of the Employment Act 1990... just in case they do mean business.

JON ASHWORTH

# New capital rules 'have prompted banking upheaval'

By NEIL BENNETT  
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

NEW international capital adequacy regulations have caused a complete upheaval in the international banking industry, according to a survey from Price Waterhouse, the accountant.

The report has been masterminded by Peter Cooke, who chaired the committee on banking regulation of the Group of Ten leading economies in Basel that devised the rules. The survey of 86 banks in 23 countries shows half of them have been forced to raise funds to meet the new capital requirements, while a third have had to reorganise their loan books to comply with the regulations.

A third of the banks in the survey also admitted that the Basel rules on capital adequacy, which come into full force at the end of next year, are preventing them from expanding their lending book.

Despite the problems, the report shows that banks are complying with the new capital restrictions throughout the



Cooke: banks are stronger

world. Only three in the survey failed to meet the interim limit at the end of last year, while all expected to attain the final level by 1993.

Mr Cooke said that banks are becoming stronger because of the imposition of capital limits. "The Seventies and early Eighties saw an unbridled expansion in banking business and a reduction in its soundness," he said. "Now there is a professional and technical concentration on banking systems, which high-

lights capital and its relation to risk."

The Basel capital adequacy regulations were agreed by the G10 countries in 1987 to set a common standard for banks and their reserves. The agreement states that all banks in G10 countries must have core capital equivalent to 8 per cent of their risk-weighted assets by 1993. According to the report, many of the world's largest banks have since struggled to meet this condition.

The report shows that the Basel regulations are quickly becoming a global standard for large banks. Many countries in the developing world, including South Korea and Malaysia, are applying them. The survey also shows that the capital restrictions have encouraged banks to increase their control of capital. Most in the survey now allocate capital to subsidiaries on a performance-related basis.

*Bank Capital Adequacy and Capital Convergence*, Price Waterhouse, Southwark Towers, 32 London Bridge Street, London SE1 9SY Price £120.

## Scicon says profits will top forecast

SD-SCICON, the software company contesting two takeover bids, said interim profits were likely to exceed the forecast £4.5 million.

John Jackson, chairman, said trading in May and last month had provided "further powerful evidence of our profit recovery". The company plans to make a forecast for the full year soon.

Mr Jackson said Scicon had declined offers of £40 million for Systems Control, its American emission testing subsidiary. EDS, a General Motors offshoot, is offering 45p for each Scicon share, valuing the group at £121 million. Cray Electronics has bid £111 million. Scicon shares were unchanged at 50p.

## Swanyard rises

The success of Technotronic, a pop group specialising in dance music, helped profits rise 21 per cent to £278,000 at Swanyard, the recording studios and music publishing company. Turnover in the year to end-December was up at £4.27 million (£2.28 million).

The costs of securing admission to the unlisted securities market resulted in an extraordinary charge of £165,000. Earnings per share rose to 2.40p (2.10p). There is again no dividend. The shares firmed 1p to 7p.

## TGI raises £2m

TGI, the electric products group that announced pre-tax losses of £820,000 and the appointment of a new chief executive last week, is raising £2.25 million through the sale and leaseback of its premises in Havant, Hampshire, to Abbey Life. The property was valued at £1.82 million in the last published accounts.

## Vita buys

British Vita, the polymer and fibres group, is acquiring the foaming operations of Leggett & Platt in America for \$11 million. The business had annual sales of \$35 million.

## American dream lands

By JON ASHWORTH

NOT many Britons have heard of Bob Crandall - but they will.

The craggy chairman of American Airlines saw a 25-year-old dream come true this week when he stepped off the first AA flight to Heathrow airport.

Sitting in the luxury of the Admiral's lounge in terminal three, Mr Crandall was in a benevolent mood. Tall, lean and deeply tanned, he lived up to his image as a charming yet ruthless negotiator who knows what he wants and usually obtains it.

"London is the most important port of European entry," said Mr Crandall, who has transformed American Airlines into one of the world's biggest carriers. From his headquarters in Dallas-Fort Worth and with an extensive hub and spoke network in North America, he plans to make Heathrow the focal point of the airline's European operations.

He is not relying on chance alone. On top of the \$450 million he paid for the TWA routes, Mr Crandall has set aside at least \$1 billion for staff, security, new premises and publicity. The final bill may reach \$2 billion, but he is not seeking quick returns.

"You have to be realistic, a bit like with any business. The key to success is to offer great continuity. The idea is to offer our customers a consistently high quality of service. If you do that often enough over a long period, then gradually you become the preferred carrier."

With United Airlines, British Airways and Virgin Atlantic lining up to fly passengers to North America from Heathrow, it may take years for American Airlines to capture its slice of the market, but Mr Crandall is happy to wait.

He said: "There will be no special deals to encourage travellers to fly with us, but we have one great advantage. We have more gateways in the United States, and beyond



Happy landing: Bob Crandall arrives at Heathrow

that we serve more cities than any other airline. Passengers like flying a single airline all the way." For Lord King, Stephen Wolf and Richard

Branson, Mr Crandall has nothing but praise. "They are all my esteemed competitors. We just hope to be a smidgeon better than the rest," he said.

## America West in rescue talks

From PHILIP ROBINSON  
IN NEW YORK

AMERICA West, the ninth largest American carrier, which filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection last week, is believed to be holding rescue talks with foreign airlines.

The carrier is the fourth to seek the protection of Chapter 11 in the past six months, squeezed by rising fuel costs and falling passenger traffic.

Concern over the survival of the airline industry prompted Samuel Skinner, the American transport secretary, to announce he would back legal changes allowing foreigners to own up to 49 per cent of the votes of an American airline.

But overseas airlines are suffering the same cost and passenger problems and a transatlantic dog fight is due to start today when American Airlines is allowed to land at London's Heathrow, competing with British Airways, Virgin Atlantic, and United Airlines, the rival American operator.

Edward Beauvais, chairman of American West, said: "We have explored many alternatives in the last few months to arrange financing to see us through the most difficult time in the airline industry's history. Unfortunately, these endeavours have not been successful thus far."

Wall Street analysts doubt whether any carrier, domestic or foreign, has the capital to inject fresh cash into America West.

The airline itself declined to comment on restructuring plans, which involve an estimated \$1 billion worth of debts.

Asset Airlines, of Australia, which is jointly owned by TNT, the transport group, and The News-Corporation, owner of *The Times*, has a 20 per cent stake in America West.

### RECENT ISSUES

EQUITIES			
Aberforth Smr (100p)	119	Sterling Tst	38-2
Aberforth Spitt (100p)	104	TR Euro Growth	97
Alliance Res	22	Tolgate	38
Brabant Res (155p)	122	Tto Int Tst (50p)	171-1
Contra-Cyclist (100p)	105	Unisham	
Drayton Blue Chip (100p)	102		
ERM Int Tst (85p)	67		
Edco	46		
East Germany Inv (100p)	107		
Elonbrook	80		
Faber Priest	181		
Geared Inc (100p)	105		
Greencom	213		
Greenwich Res	19		
Headline Book (100p)	123		
Manchester Uni (285p)	292		
Mirror Group (125p)	99-1-2		
Mitkin Grp	15		
Moorgate Smr Cos (100p)	105-1		
Oryx Gold	261		
Pelican Grp	20		
Resort Hotels	73		
River/Merc Smr (100p)	80-1		
Smaller Inv Tst (500p)	105-20		
Standard Platform (225p)			

(Issue price in brackets)

### Airsprung seeks £3m

AIRSPRUNG Furniture Group, the Unlisted Securities Market beds to furniture maker, is looking to raise £3.2 million through a one-for-four rights issue at 145p.

The company, Britain's second-largest bed maker after Silentnight, wants to boost its capital investment programme, but part of the rights proceeds will be used to repay borrowings of £2.1 million.

Michael Coppel, chief executive, said the issue would enable Airsprung to press on with its significant capital investment programme.

## Another round of outstanding results from Scottish & Newcastle

Preliminary results for the year ended 28th April 1991

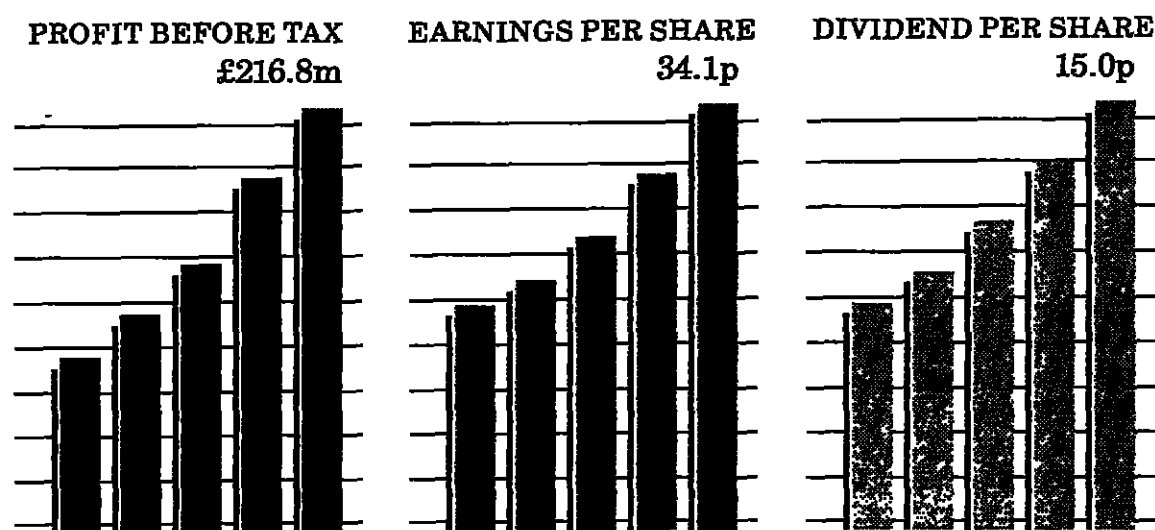
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\*Recommended

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## BUSINESS LETTERS

### Price Waterhouse redundancies under fire

From Mr Peter L. Hogarth  
Sir, I am writing in response to the article on the front page of the business section of your newspaper (June 26) regarding the redundancy programme at Price Waterhouse, making students under their training contract redundant.

It has been an accepted practice for at least the last 30 years that there are responsibilities on both sides of a training contract: the student is required to pass his exams and to work diligently for the employer and the employer is required to provide a suitable training environment (including variety of work between different disciplines such as audit, taxation and book-keeping) but most of all to provide time off and support to pass the professional exams. It is quite clearly understood at the start of the contract (which is usually for three years) that the student will be supported by the firm,

provided he or she is carrying out their part of the contract.

Perhaps the least satisfactory aspect of the redundancy programme is the timing of the information to the relevant students. I do not believe that anyone in any professional or educational environment would consider it remotely acceptable to tell someone four weeks from their final exam that they were in effect out of a job and unemployed. It is difficult to overestimate the effect this will have on the student's preparation for what is probably the most important exam they will sit in their lives.

It is quite incomprehensible to me why these people could not have been seen after the exam, which after all is in only four weeks' time. If the justification is that Price Waterhouse's financial position is so critical that they cannot wait for four more weeks before making a few students redun-

dant, then it is clear that the regular reports of their vast increases in fees and profits over the last few years (based on unaudited figures and unpublished numbers) are clearly incorrect. I, however, do not believe this for one moment. What is clearly happening here is that the partners of the firm are taking an extremely short-term view at the expense of the entire profession's reputation as a training environment.

This is such a fundamental abdication of a training firm's responsibilities that I also believe that the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales should examine closely whether Price Waterhouse should be considered a fit and proper training environment under their rules.

Yours faithfully,  
PETER L. HOGARTH,  
6 Frank Dixon Way,  
Dulwich, SE21.

### Standing up for small businesses

From Ms Sheila Bounford  
Sir, The hostilities between small businesses and banks can be cured without adopting the penalty points system suggested by the Forum of Private Businesses ("Small firms may pay the penalty", June 18).

It is time for banks and small businesses alike to learn that their relationship is symbiotic. Small businesses must remember that they are the clients of their bankers, and as such are entitled to expect a first-class service. To enable banks to provide this service, small businesses need to communicate their changing requirements to their bank manager as early as possible, and be able to discuss any problems (such as

clients extending credit unreasonably) without fear of penalty or reprisal.

In return, banks must be willing to assess and reassess each individual business circumstance as frequently as necessary, and learn to treat small businessmen and women like valued customers. This will be time- (and therefore cost-) intensive for banks. But not as costly as indirectly contributing to the increasing number of small businesses in liquidation by flatly refusing to extend credit on reasonable terms.

As a body acting in the interests of small businesses, the Forum of Private Businesses should be concentrating on building up the perceived value of small businesses to the major clearing banks. It will not do this by offering the banks a big stick with which to beat their small business clients.

Yours sincerely,  
SHEILA BOUNFORD,  
Partner,  
Chapman Bounford,  
115a Cleveland Street,  
W1.

### Interest link

From Emeritus Professor David Bell

Sir, It seems to me, as an onlooker, that the two recent criticisms of the banks - the demise of the responsible local branch manager and the high rate of interest charged to many small business - may well be linked.

The lack of a responsible local manager means there is no means of assessing the credit-worthiness of an individual customer, so the banks (or some of them) may have re-classified the smaller industrial overdrafts as "unsecured personal loans" with a correspondingly high rate of interest. The precedent for this is that the Central Statistical Office counts bank loans to unincorporated businesses as part of bank loans to the "Personal Sector".

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID BELL,  
87 East End,  
Wokingham, Wokingham.

Letters to *The Times* Business and Finance section can be sent by fax on 071-782 5112.

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### Barclays building

From Mr Sam Shepherd  
Sir, Your City Diarist refers to Barclays Bank's former headquarters as being the site of Europe's highest crane, and that the headquarters should re-open in spring 1993. In Sir John Quinton's recent advertisement, which details his bank's attitude to small business, 54 Lombard Street is recorded as Barclays' registered office. Does this mean that customers, where required by law or contract, must serve legal notices to a building site? Does this correspond with the friendly image Sir John portrays in his bank's attitude to its customers?

Yours faithfully,  
SAM SHEPHERD,  
53 Speldhurst Road,  
Turnham Green, W4.







[illegible]

1991		Price	Open	High	Low	Close	Vol	P/E	1991		Price	Open	High	Low	Close	Vol	P/E
High	Low								High	Low							
2	21	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	58	30	80	80	80	80	80	80	80
3	22	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	59	31	80	80	80	80	80	80	80
4	23	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	60	32	80	80	80	80	80	80	80
5	24	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	61	33	80	80	80	80	80	80	80
6	25	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	62	34	80	80	80	80	80	80	80
7	26	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	63	35	80	80	80	80	80	80	80
8	27	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	64	36	80	80	80	80	80	80	80
9	28	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	65	37	80	80	80	80	80	80	80
10	29	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	66	38	80	80	80	80	80	80	80
11	30	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	67	39	80	80	80	80	80	80	80
12	31	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	68	40	80	80	80	80	80	80	80
13	32	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	69	41	80	80	80	80	80	80	80
14	33	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	70	42	80	80	80	80	80	80	80
15	34	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	71	43	80	80	80	80	80	80	80
16	35	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	72	44	80	80	80	80	80	80	80
17	36	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	73	45	80	80	80	80	80	80	80
18	37	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	74	46	80	80	80	80	80	80	80
19	38	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	47	80	80	80	80	80	80	80
20	39	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	76	48	80	80	80	80	80	80	80
21	40	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	77	49	80	80	80	80	80	80	80
22	41	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	78	50	80	80	80	80	80	80	80
23	42	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	79	51	80	80	80	80	80	80	80
24	43	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	80	52	80	80	80	80	80	80	80
25	44	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	81	53	80	80	80	80	80	80	80
26	45	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	82	54	80	80	80	80	80	80	80
27	46	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	83	55							

Exchange index compared with 1985 was down at 89.3 (day's range 89.3-89.5).

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES					OTHER STERLING RATES					DOLLAR SPOT RATES													
Market Rates for July 2																							
Amsterdam	3.3070-3.3132	3.3070-3.3107	5 months	11%-14%	Argentina austral*	169.08-1.0924.8	Australia	1.3075-1.3084		Australia	1.2809-1.2812												
Bombay	92.50-92.92	92.50-92.92	1%-2%	91-92%	Australia dollar	2.1025-2.1028	Australia	1.2809-1.2812		Australia	1.2809-1.2812												
Copenhagen	11.2220-11.3695	11.2220-11.3451	24-28%	5%-4%	Brazil cruzeiro *	501.87-592.71	Brazil cruzeiro *	501.87-592.71		Brazil cruzeiro *	501.87-592.71												
Dublin	1.0890-1.1005	1.0890-1.1005	18-19%	38-27%	Cyprus pound	6.785-6.788	Cyprus pound	6.785-6.788		Cyprus pound	6.785-6.788												
Frankfurt	2.2820-2.2830	2.2820-2.2830	11%-14%	11%-14%	Indian rupee	1.65-1.71	India rupee	1.65-1.71		India rupee	1.65-1.71												
London	254.31-257.34	254.31-257.34	50-12%	240-300%	Greece drachma	320.40-320.50	Greece drachma	320.40-320.50		Greece drachma	320.40-320.50												
Lisbon	184.68-184.82	184.68-184.82	15-20%	49-58%	Hong Kong dollar	12.4940-12.5004	Hong Kong dollar	12.4940-12.5004		Hong Kong dollar	12.4940-12.5004												
Madrid	218.0-219.17	218.0-219.17	10-12%	91-92%	Indo rupiah	97.05-98.4	Indo rupiah	97.05-98.4		Indo rupiah	97.05-98.4												
Montreal	1.8222-1.8237	1.8222-1.8238	0.43-0.56%	0.62-0.71%	Kuwait dirr	1.481-1.4816	Kuwait dirr	1.481-1.4816		Kuwait dirr	1.481-1.4816												
New York	1.0350-1.0380	1.0350-1.0340	0.47-0.71%	2.00-1.37%	Malaysia ringgit	4.4671-4.4916	Malaysia ringgit	4.4671-4.4916		Malaysia ringgit	4.4671-4.4916												
Osaka	218.0-219.17	218.0-219.17	10-12%	91-92%	Netherlands guilder	2.1025-2.1028	Netherlands guilder	2.1025-2.1028		Netherlands guilder	2.1025-2.1028												
Paris	1.8222-1.8237	1.8222-1.8238	0.43-0.56%	0.62-0.71%	New Zealand dollar	2.1025-2.1028	New Zealand dollar	2.1025-2.1028		New Zealand dollar	2.1025-2.1028												
Stockholm	0.9410-0.9722	0.9410-0.9580	11%-14%	11%-14%	Saudi Arabia riyal	6.0025-6.0025	Saudi Arabia riyal	6.0025-6.0025		Saudi Arabia riyal	6.0025-6.0025												
Switzerland	1.0350-1.0444	1.0350-1.0444	0.47-0.71%	2.00-1.37%	Singapore dollar	2.1025-2.1028	Singapore dollar	2.1025-2.1028		Singapore dollar	2.1025-2.1028												
Tokyo	222.45-222.87	222.45-222.87	5-11%	91-92%	S Africa rand (R)	5.2545-5.2552	S Africa rand (R)	5.2545-5.2552		S Africa rand (R)	5.2545-5.2552												
Yokohama	20.95-20.97	20.95-20.98	41%-34%	10%-92%	S Africa rand (com)	4.494-4.4972	S Africa rand (com)	4.494-4.4972		S Africa rand (com)	4.494-4.4972												
Zurich	2.9212-2.9334	2.9212-2.9335	9-9%	25-17%	S Africa rand (R)	4.494-4.4972	S Africa rand (R)	4.494-4.4972		S Africa rand (R)	4.494-4.4972												
Source: Data Bank					Source: Data Bank					Source: Data Bank													
MONEY RATES (%)																							
Money Rates: Clearing Banks 11% Finance Hse 12%																							
Discount Market Loans: O/Night 11% Low 11% Week End: 11%																							
Treasury Bills (Days): 2 mth 10 1/4% 3 mth 10 1/4% Sell 2 mth 10% 3 mth 10%																							
Prime Bank Bills (Days): 1 mth 11% 3 mth 11% 6 mth 11% 12 mth 11%																							
Sterling Money Rates:																							
London:	11%-11%	11%-11%	11%-11%	10%-10%	10%-10%	10%-10%	10%-10%	10%-10%	10%-10%														
Overseas:	11%-11%	11%-11%	11%-11%	10%-10%	10%-10%	10%-10%	10%-10%	10%-10%	10%-10%														
Overnight open 11% day 11%																							
Forward Sterling at 11%:																							
1 1/2 mth:	11%-11%	11%-11%	11%-11%	10%-10%	10%-10%	10%-10%	10%-10%	10%-10%	10%-10%														
3 mth:	11%-11%	11%-11%	11%-11%	10%-10%	10%-10%	10%-10%	10%-10%	10%-10%	10%-10%														
6 mth:	11%-11%	11%-11%	11%-11%	10%-10%	10%-10%	10%-10%	10%-10%	10%-10%	10%-10%														
12 mth:	11%-11%	11%-11%	11%-11%	10%-10%	10%-10%	10%-10%	10%-10%	10%-10%	10%-10%														
Forward Dollar:	6.00-6.08	6.07-6.02	6.15-6.10	6.42-6.37	6.38-6.33																		
Forward Gold:	11%-11%	11%-11%	11%-11%	10%-10%	10%-10%																		
EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)																							
7 day:	8-9%	8-9%	8-9%	Call																			
1 mth:	8-9%	8-9%	8-9%	8-9%																			
3 mth:	8-9%	8-9%	8-9%	8-9%																			
6 mth:	8-9%	8-9%	8-9%	8-9%																			
12 mth:	8-9%	8-9%	8-9%	8-9%																			
18 mth:	8-9%	8-9%	8-9%	8-9%																			
24 mth:	8-9%	8-9%	8-9%	8-9%																			
36 mth:	8-9%	8-9%	8-9%	8-9%																			
48 mth:	8-9%	8-9%	8-9%	8-9%																			
60 mth:	8-9%	8-9%	8-9%	8-9%																			
72 mth:	8-9%	8-9%	8-9%	8-9%																			
84 mth:	8-9%	8-9%	8-9%	8-9%																			
96 mth:	8-9%	8-9%	8-9%	8-9%																			
108 mth:	8-9%	8-9%	8-9%	8-9%																			
120 mth:	8-9%	8-9%	8-9%	8-9%																			
132 mth:	8-9%	8-9%	8-9%	8-9%																			
144 mth:	8-9%	8-9%	8-9%	8-9%																			
156 mth:	8-9%	8-9%	8-9%	8-9%																			
168 mth:	8-9%	8-9%	8-9%	8-9%																			
180 mth:	8-9%	8-9%	8-9%	8-9%																			
192 mth:	8-9%	8-9%	8-9%	8-9%																			
204 mth:	8-9%	8-9%	8-9%	8-9%																			
216 mth:	8-9%	8-9%	8-9%	8-9%																			
228 mth:	8-9%	8-9%	8-9%	8-9%																			
240 mth:	8-9%	8-9%	8-9%	8-9%																			
252 mth:	8-9%	8-9%	8-9%	8-9%																			
264 mth:	8-9%	8-9%	8-9%	8-9%																			
276 mth:	8-9%	8-9%	8-9%	8-9%																			
288 mth:	8-9%	8-9%	8-9%	8-9%																			
300 mth:	8-9%	8-9%	8-9%	8-9%																			
312 mth:	8-9%	8-9%	8-9%	8-9%																			
324 mth:	8-9%	8-9%	8-9%	8-9%																			
336 mth:	8-9%	8-9%	8-9%	8-9%																			
348 mth:	8-9%	8-9%	8-9%	8-9%																			
360 mth:	8-9%	8-9%	8-9%	8-9%																			
372 mth:	8-9%	8-9%	8-9%	8-9%																			
384 mth:	8-9%	8-9%	8-9%	8-9%																			
396 mth:	8-9%	8-9%	8-9%	8-9%																			
408 mth:	8-9%	8-9%	8-9%	8-9%																			
420 mth:	8-9%	8-9%	8-9%	8-9%																			
432 mth:	8-9%	8-9%	8-9%	8-9%																			
444 mth:	8-9%	8-9%	8-9%	8-9%																			
456 mth:	8-9%	8-9%	8-9%	8-9%																			
468 mth:	8-9%	8-9%	8-9%	8-9%																			
480 mth:	8-9%	8-9%	8-9%	8-9%																			
492 mth:	8-9%	8-9%	8-9%	8-9%																			
504 mth:	8-9%	8-9%	8-9%	8-9%																			
516 mth:	8-9%	8-9%	8-9%	8-9%																			

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# Portfolio PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your daily dividend. If it matches the prize money stated on the back of your card, you have won outright or a share of the daily claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Code	Price
1	Hamilton Wharfedale	Industrials E-K	1	100.00
2	Chile Wines	Foodstuffs	2	100.00
3	United	Electronics	3	100.00
4	Gwynedd	Property	4	100.00
5	Thames Water	Water	5	100.00
6	Barlow Rand	Industrials A-D	6	100.00
7	Le Patisserie	Foodstuffs	7	100.00
8	Yorkshire Chem	Chemicals, Plastics	8	100.00
9	Cycle Pet	Oil/Gas	9	100.00
10	Lloyds	Banking/Discount	10	100.00
11	Seymour	Property	11	100.00
12	Smiths Group	Industrials E-K	12	100.00
13	Sovereign	Oil/Gas	13	100.00
14	Steel Claret	Banking/Discount	14	100.00
15	BSS Group	Industrials A-D	15	100.00
16	Udal Pet	Oil/Gas	16	100.00
17	Williams Hodge	Industrials E-K	17	100.00
18	Adrian	Property	18	100.00
19	Act New Z	Banking/Discount	19	100.00
20	NSM	Building/Roads	20	100.00
21	BOC	Chemicals, Plastics	21	100.00
22	RIM	Foodstuffs	22	100.00
23	Costa	Building/Roads	23	100.00
24	Ud Newspapers	Newspapers/Pubs	24	100.00
25	Barron Davis	Building/Roads	25	100.00
26	News Corp	Newspapers/Pubs	26	100.00
27	Warburg SG	Banking/Discount	27	100.00
28	Stentor	Building/Roads	28	100.00
29	AD - Creston	Industrials E-K	29	100.00
30	Wipac	Property/Print Adv	30	100.00
31	RAA	Transport	31	100.00
32	Yorkshire Water	Water	32	100.00
33	Royal Elton	Electronics	33	100.00
34	THORN EMI	Electronics	34	100.00
35	Shell	Oil/Gas	35	100.00
36	Tate & Lyle	Foodstuffs	36	100.00
37	Summit (Adv)	Property/Print Adv	37	100.00
38	Nat Amex IR	Banking/Discount	38	100.00
39	Tesco	Foodstuffs	39	100.00
40	Ferranti Elton	Electronics	40	100.00
41	Chesfield	Property	41	100.00
42	Smiths Ind	Industrials E-K	42	100.00
43	Anglo & Parsons	Electronics	43	100.00
44	Anglo Water	Water	44	100.00

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend						
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in Saturday's newspaper.						
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	TOTAL

The £2,000 Portfolio Platinum prize was won yesterday by Miss Rosslyn Nicholas, of London W2.

## BRITISH FUNDS

Fund	High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%
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## SHORTS (Under Five Years)

Company	Price	Change	%
1	100.00	0.00	0.00
2	100.00	0.00	0.00
3	100.00	0.00	0.00
4	100.00	0.00	0.00
5	100.00	0.00	0.00
6	100.00	0.00	0.00
7	100.00	0.00	0.00
8	100.00	0.00	0.00
9	100.00	0.00	0.00
10	100.00	0.00	0.00

## FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

Company	Price	Change	%
1	100.00	0.00	0.00
2	100.00	0.00	0.00
3	100.00	0.00	0.00
4	100.00	0.00	0.00
5	100.00	0.00	0.00
6	100.00	0.00	0.00
7	100.00	0.00	0.00
8	100.00	0.00	0.00
9	100.00	0.00	0.00
10	100.00	0.00	0.00

## OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

Company	Price	Change	%
1	100.00	0.00	0.00
2	100.00	0.00	0.00
3	100.00	0.00	0.00
4	100.00	0.00	0.00
5	100.00	0.00	0.00
6	100.00	0.00	0.00
7	100.00	0.00	0.00
8	100.00	0.00	0.00
9	100.00	0.00	0.00
10	100.00	0.00	0.00

## UNDATED

Company	Price	Change	%
1	100.00	0.00	0.00
2	100.00	0.00	0.00
3	100.00	0.00	0.00
4	100.00	0.00	0.00
5	100.00	0.00	0.00
6	100.00	0.00	0.00
7	100.00	0.00	0.00
8	100.00	0.00	0.00
9	100.00	0.00	0.00
10	100.00	0.00	0.00

## INDEX-LINKED

Company	Price	Change	%
1	100.00	0.00	0.00
2	100.00	0.00	0.00
3	100.00	0.00	0.00
4	100.00	0.00	0.00
5	100.00	0.00	0.00
6	100.00	0.00	0.00
7	100.00	0.00	0.00
8	100.00	0.00	0.00
9	100.00	0.00	0.00
10	100.00	0.00	0.00

## BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

Company	Price	Change	%
1	100.00	0.00	0.00
2	100.00	0.00	0.00
3	100.00	0.00	0.00
4	100.00	0.00	0.00
5	100.00	0.00	0.00
6	100.00	0.00	0.00
7	100.00	0.00	0.00
8	100.00	0.00	0.00
9	100.00	0.00	0.00
10	100.00	0.00	0.00

## STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

# Shares advance in thin trade

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began July 1. Dealings end July 12. Contango day July 15. Settlement day July 22.  
Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

## BREWERIES

Company	Price	Change	%
1	100.00	0.00	0.00
2	100.00	0.00	0.00
3	100.00	0.00	0.00
4	100.00	0.00	0.00
5	100.00	0.00	0.00
6	100.00	0.00	0.00
7	100.00	0.00	0.00
8	100.00	0.00	0.00
9	100.00	0.00	0.00
10	100.00	0.00	0.00

## BUILDING, ROADS

Company	Price	Change	%
1	100.00	0.00	0.00
2	100.00	0.00	0.00
3	100.00	0.00	0.00
4	100.00	0.00	0.00
5	100.00	0.00	0.00
6	100.00	0.00	0.00
7	100.00	0.00	0.00
8	100.00	0.00	0.00
9	100.00	0.00	0.00
10	100.00	0.00	0.00

## CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

Company	Price	Change	%
1	100.00	0.00	0.00
2	100.00	0.00	0.00
3	100.00	0.00	0.00
4	100.00	0.00	0.00
5	100.00	0.00	0.00
6	100.00	0.00	0.00
7	100.00	0.00	0.00
8	100.00	0.00	0.00
9	100.00	0.00	0.00
10	100.00	0.00	0.00

## DRAPERY, STORES

Company	Price	Change	%
1	100.00	0.00	0.00
2	100.00	0.00	0.00
3	100.00	0.00	0.00
4	100.00	0.00	0.00
5	100.00	0.00	0.00
6	100.00	0.00	0.00
7	100.00	0.00	0.00
8	100.00	0.00	0.00
9	100.00	0.00	0.00
10	100.00	0.00	0.00

## ELECTRICALS

Company	Price	Change	%
1	100.00	0.00	0.00
2	100.00	0.00	0.00
3	100.00	0.00	0.00
4	100.00	0.00	0.00
5	100.00	0.00	0.00
6	100.00	0.00	0.00
7	100.00	0.00	0.00
8	100.00	0.00	0.00
9	100.00	0.00	0.00
10	100.00	0.00	0.00

## INDUSTRIALS A-D

Company	Price	Change	%
1	100.00	0.00	0.00
2	100.00	0.00	0.00
3	100.00	0.00	0.00
4	100.00	0.00	0.00
5	100.00	0.00	0.00
6	100.00	0.00	0.00
7	100.00	0.00	0.00
8	100.00	0.00	0.00
9	100.00	0.00	0.00
10	100.00	0.00	0.00

## FINANCE, LAND

Company	Price	Change	%
1	100.00	0.00	0.00
2	100.00	0.00	0.00
3	100.00	0.00	0.00
4	100.00	0.00	0.00
5	100.00	0.00	0.00
6	100.00	0.00	0.00
7	100.00	0.00	0.00
8	100.00	0.00	0.00
9	100.00	0.00	0.00
10	100.00	0.00	0.00

## FINANCIAL TRUSTS

Company	Price	Change	%
1	100.00	0.00	0.00
2	100.00	0.00	0.00
3	100.00	0.00	0.00
4	100.00	0.00	0.00
5	100.00	0.00	0.00
6	100.00	0.00	0.00
7	100.00	0.00	0.00
8	100.00	0.00	0.00
9	100.00	0.00	0.00
10	100.00	0.00	0.00

## FOODS

Company	Price	Change	%
1	100.00	0.00	0.00
2	100.00	0.00	0.00
3	100.00	0.00	0.00
4	100.00	0.00	0.00
5	100.00	0.00	0.00
6	100.00	0.00	0.00
7	100.00	0.00	0.00
8	100.00	0.00	0.00
9	100.00	0.00	0.00
10	100.00	0.00	0.00

## HOTELS, CATERERS

Company	Price	Change	%
1	100.00	0.00	0.00
2	100.00	0.00	0.00
3	100.00	0.00	0.00
4	100.00	0.00	0.00
5	100.00	0.00	0.00
6	100.00	0.00	0.00
7	100.00	0.00	0.00
8	100.00	0.00	0.00
9	100.00	0.00	0.00
10	100.00	0.00	0.00

## INDUSTRIALS E-K

Company	Price	Change	%
1	100.00	0.00	0.00
2	100.00	0.00	0.00
3	100.00	0.00	0.00
4	100.00	0.00	0.00
5	100.00	0.00	0.00
6	100.00	0.00	0.00
7	100.00	0.00	0.00
8	100.00	0.00	0.00
9	100.00	0.00	0.00
10	100.00	0.00	0.00

## INDUSTRIALS L-R

Company	Price	Change	%
1	100.00	0.00	0.00
2	100.00	0.00	0.00
3	100.00	0.00	0.00
4	100.00	0.00	0.00
5	100.00	0.00	0.00
6	100.00	0.00	0.00
7	100.00	0.00	0.00
8	100.00	0.00	0.00
9	100.00	0.00	0.00
10	100.00	0.00	0.00

## INSURANCE

Company	Price	Change	%
1	100.00	0.00	0.00
2	100.00	0.00	0.00
3	100.00	0.00	0.00
4	100.00	0.00	0.00
5	100.00	0.00	0.00
6	100.00	0.00	0.00
7	100.00	0.00	0.00
8	100.00	0.00	0.00
9	100.00	0.00	0.00
10	100.00	0.00	0.00

## LEISURE



# Programmed for listings failure

Readers of *Hello!* were furious when the successful weekly introduced television listings into its pages in April. "Why are you wasting space on this rubbish?" they wrote to Sally Cartwright, the magazine's publishing director.

*Hello!* was the first — and is still the only — national magazine to provide television listings when the duopoly enjoyed by *Radio Times* and *TV Times* ended on March 1. But already it is having second thoughts. "We thought we were adding value for readers," Ms Cartwright says. "But the whole concept of television listings has been devalued."

What has gone wrong? It all seemed so promising last year, when magazine publishers were lobbying vociferously for an end to the exclusive right of BBC Magazines (the publishers of *Radio Times*) and Independent Television Publications (*TV Times*) to print BBC and ITV listings information. Figures were touted showing how, for example, nine television listings magazines in Germany enjoyed a total circulation of nearly 16 million. With free competition, Britain would surely follow suit.

There were already ominous signs before March that life in the open market would not be comfortable. The *Sunday Telegraph* ceased publication of *Seven Days*, its weekly television supplement, which it had intended to develop into a full listings guide. Another contender, *TV Guide*, published by Murdoch Magazines, decided to concentrate on publishing

Andrew Lycett on why publishers' dreams of an explosion in television magazines have not come true

Since then the no-holds-barred battle for listings readers has been fought out between BBC Magazines, ITP (now owned by IPC Magazines, part of Reed International) — both trying to maintain their market share — and a powerful new contender, H. Bauer, which owns four television listings magazines in its home country of Germany.

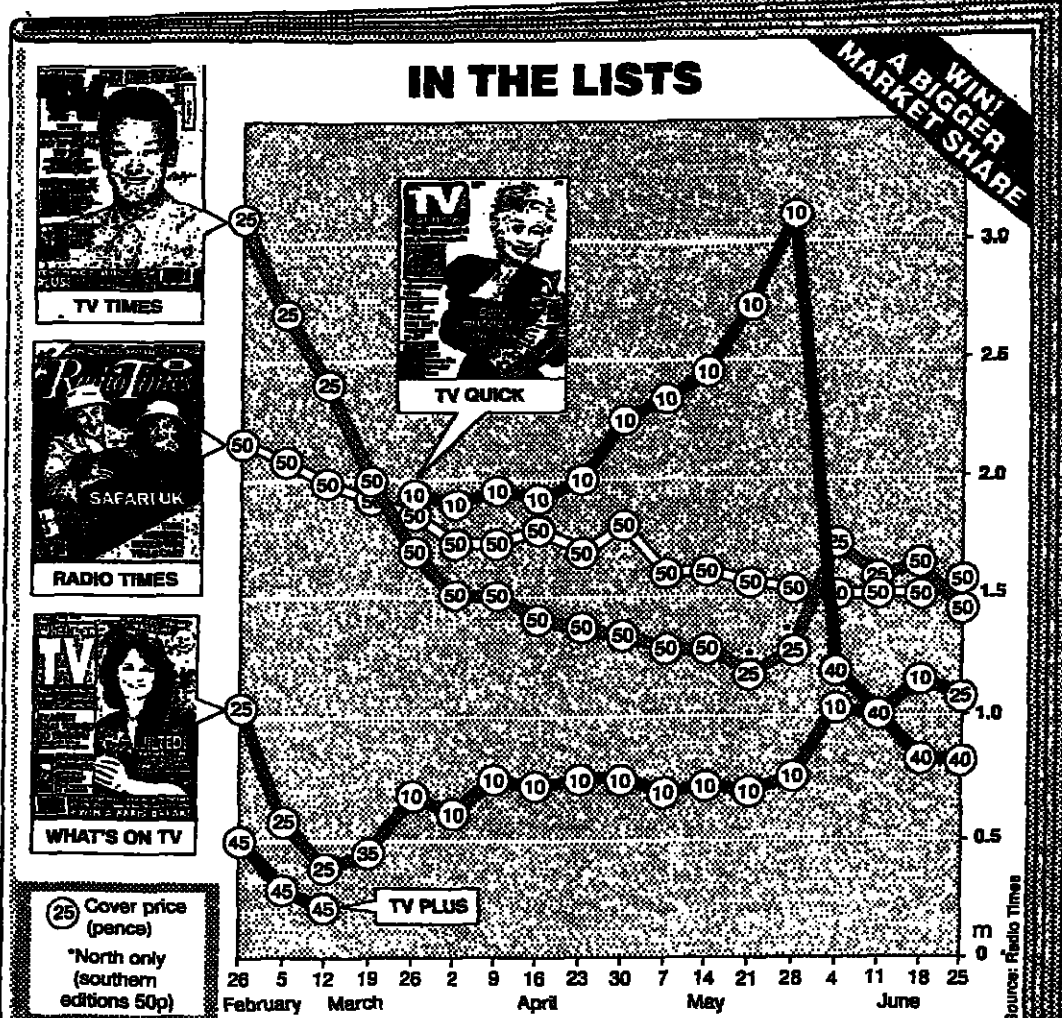
Bauer had already demonstrated its commitment — and the depth of its pockets — with its two British women's magazine titles, *Bella* and *Take a Break*, which are now joint best sellers in their field. It held its fire until five weeks into the open market before introducing *TV Quick*, a popular end-of-the-market listings title priced at 10p, well below the 50p usually charged by *Radio Times* and *TV Times*. Anticipating this new arrival, ITP had launched its

own, similar title, *What's On TV*, aimed at C2 women, at the time of deregulation. With *TV Quick*'s launch, ITP promptly reduced the price of *What's On TV* from 35p to 10p.

Circulations of *Radio Times* and *TV Times* — about three million each at the start of the year — had already dropped to two million, as each started duplicating the other's programme details. The two new competitors at 10p eroded their market share further. But while *Radio Times* held its cover price at 50p, despite falling further to 1.5 million readers, ITP reduced the *What's On TV* cover price to 25p, after its circulation slid to 1.2 million at the end of May.

Cover prices have subsequently bobbed around, with only *Radio Times* maintaining its pre-open market level. According to its rivals, Bauer has spent more than £30 million in promoting its new title, largely through television advertising and free copies to retailers. This kind of expenditure could not last long. None of these four titles has been making money. Last week, they all reverted to the prices at which the trade believes they will slug it out in the autumn. *TV Quick* is now 40p, *What's On TV* 25p, and both *Radio Times* and *TV Times* their original 50p. Indications are that *Radio Times* has regained its position as market leader with 1.6 million readers. *TV Times* has 1.3 million. *What's On TV* has 1.1 million, and *TV Quick* 800,000.

This circulation battle has been merely an opening skirmish.



Apart from *The Sun* and the *Daily Mirror*, no national newspaper has yet shown its hand. These two papers publish Saturday listings supplements which are believed to have boosted their weekend sales. But other newspaper and magazine publishers are unwilling to make any substantial financial commitment until the Copyright Tribunal has decided how much *Radio Times* and *TV Times* can charge for their accepted copy-

right on programme information. The signs are not all bad. Before deregulation more than 80 per cent of readers bought both *Radio Times* and *TV Times*. Since this duplication has presumably decreased, it seems that the total number of buyers of television listings magazines has increased substantially.

Still the back-biting between the main contenders continues. "We're probably looking at the

first Bauer failure," suggests the editor of *Radio Times*, Nicholas Brett. "I wouldn't like to be a shareholder in Reed International," says Alan Urry, the managing director of Bauer UK. Analysis argues it is far too early to write the German publisher off. Roy Jeays, the head of press at Zenith, Satchi & Satchi's media buying agency, says: "They are still likely to have a few tricks up their sleeve."

## MEDIA WATCH

### Eagle meets Oz

WHAT would the founder of *The Eagle* have made of it? Yesterday the Periodical Publishers' Association presented the annual Marcus Morris award for the greatest contribution to its industry to Felix Dennis, the boss of Dennis Publishing. Mr Dennis, who now puts out such titles as *M4C User* and *Computer Buyer*, was one of the editors of the underground magazine *Oz* who were convicted of conspiring to corrupt the morals of the young when they put out a "school kids" issue in 1971. The conviction was later overturned. The Rev Marcus Morris founded the children's paper *The Eagle* in 1950 before becoming managing director of National Magazines in 1964. He died in 1989.

### Action on libel

THE working group set up by the Lord Chancellor last year to examine ways of reducing the complexities of the libel laws is due to report within a month. Headed by Lord Justice Neill, the group will recommend that parties in a libel action should be able to settle their differences in an informal tribunal setting, rather than in the High Court as is currently required. It will also recommend that ambiguities about the actual meaning of defamatory articles should be resolved long before an action comes to trial. The cost of libel actions will be correspondingly reduced.

### Partial arts

PIOUS expressions of outrage in the latest issue of the monthly *The Art Newspaper*. A survey it conducted shows that the arts, including film, radio and television, account for only 5 per cent of the contents of British quality newspapers; the visual arts, including heritage and architecture, a mere 1 per cent. *The Independent* and *The Guardian* provide most arts coverage on their arts pages. *The Times* and *The Independent* the most in their overall news coverage.

A.L.

## Et respice, Finnish coronat opus

Or how the Finns had to broadcast to the world that they are better understood in Latin

THE Finns would have conquered the world, had they not had to learn Finnish first. Finn-Ugic is an interesting cluster of lingos, but there is no point in pretending it is easy. Accordingly, to spread Finnish ideas and Finnish hegemony more easily around the rest of the world, Radio Finland (their equivalent of the BBC's world service) has started to broadcast the news in Latin. It has proved a Jupiter-thundering success.

This is something of a paradox. The Romans never reached Finland. It was *terra incognita*, miles away to the north. Romans, who invented hot baths and central heating, and thought that the only purpose of snow was to cool wine, would not have been seen dead there. Apart from geography,

Finnish is one of the tiny group of European languages that has no connection with the great Indo-European family, of which Latin is the grandmother. Nothing could be less Latin than a Finn.

Nevertheless, if you tuned in to Radio Finland at the weekend, you could hear the news in Latin, the language that ruled the world for seven centuries, and still endures recognisably in most of the European languages, apart from Finnish. Last weekend *Nuntii Latini* (Latin Messengers) was full of *res gestae* (news) about trouble in Illyricum, or as we call it

in these decadent days, Yugoslavia. This would not have surprised the ancient Romans. There was always trouble in Illyricum.

*Nuntii Latini* was introduced as a publicity gimmick to attract more listeners to Radio Finland. Two Finnish classicists, Tuomo Pekkanen and Reijo Pitkanen, were employed to write and broadcast the world news in Latin.

Letters began to pour in from all over the world, most of them also written in Latin. A Harvard professor wrote to say that he was flabbergasted (*obtusofactus*) and delighted to hear the news in a civilised language.

One problem is the lack of words in Latin for modern innovations introduced since the passing of the glory that was Rome. But there is nothing that

the flexibility of Latin, and a knowledge of the ancient authorities cannot solve. To play tennis at Wimbledon can be found in Martial as *paganica ludere* (to play with a ball stuffed with feathers). Seneca gives us Agassi the tennis star as *piliereps* (the ball creep). A Kalashnikov is *sclopetum* (Latin for *stratum*). A Scud missile is *pyrobolus ballistarius*. Latin is a terse and economical language, but it has difficulty in grappling with modern concepts. For example, a literal translation of "television" is, *machina ad vim electricam transmittendam ita*

*instructa ut sine intervallo imagines ac voces e longinquo indicat* (a machine designed to transmit images and sounds over a long distance by the power of electricity). If I were Radio Finland, I should stick to *television*, half Greek and half Latin.

*Nuntii Latini* can be heard in Britain on 1175kHz or 9560kHz on shortwave. It is broadcast four times over the weekend at 6.40am (GMT) and 2.25pm on Saturdays, 6.50pm and 9.45pm on Sundays. It can be heard at 10.40pm on Sundays at 963kHz on medium wave. Europe's ancestral language rules the airwaves once again. *Tu regere aeris fluctus voce Latina, Scandia, memento.*

PHILIP HOWARD

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As the recession continues to bite, Christopher Warman finds grounds for optimism on the continental front

# Europe gives the developers hope

Europe is giving new hope to the commercial property market as it tries to cope with recession. Developers and investors are optimistic about the opportunities they expect the Nineties to bring.

A report by the accountants Arthur Andersen and lawyers Nabarro Nathanson, international real-estate advisers, suggests the level of property investment in the European Community will reach £7.8 billion by 1995, a twofold increase since 1985.

Within that figure, Japanese investment will have played a large part, increasing from £6.9 million in 1985 to £1.4 billion in 1989, and continuing. American investors are also turning increasingly to Europe as the land of opportunity. The report, "Building A Stake In Europe", says: "With the American property market currently experiencing a severe slump, Europe is clearly seen as the real-estate market of the Nineties."

Europe, the report argues, is attractive because it offers a mix of opportunities, with established investment areas such as France, Germany and Britain, but also

countries with tremendous growth prospects, including Spain, Portugal and Italy, as well as the potential of central and eastern Europe.

Colin Davy, of Nabarro Nathanson, the report's co-author, says that European-minded investors have been studying prospects and that when they return to the market, they will be investing in a wider range of countries than before. Mr Davy warns that Britain will have to fight harder to retain its market share.

The survey's analysis of inter-

create a significant growth in economic prosperity," the authors say. "This should provide a boost for the commercial, leisure and industrial property scenes, and this in turn should benefit the banks, institutional investors, developers and construction companies among others."

Large European schemes such as the Eurotunnel and the transcontinental fast-speed train network have already provided a massive uplift to the real estate sector in Europe. A single European market does not mean there will be a single European property market. The report says that property is the one factor that single market legislation does not cover, so after 1992 investors will still have to take into account 12 radically different national property systems.

The report is not the only new contribution to the debate on European opportunities. A guide has been published by East 8, a partnership drawing on accountants, architects and lawyers, examining the investment and development potential of the East European property market. East 8 says that the region's governments need foreign investment and have

now put in place measures to attract finance and to analyse the complex issues of property ownership. East 8 says that old legal constraints are being lifted, and foreign investors can now invest, develop, realise potential and repatriate their profits in hard currency. Until now, German, Austrian and Scandinavian investors have taken the lead in these new markets. The guide covers Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland and the Soviet Union and looks at the retail, hotel, residential, office and industrial sectors. East 8 hopes to heighten awareness of the growing market.

Back in this country, Freshfields, one of the biggest law firms in Europe, has produced a guide for German investors on commercial property in England and Wales. Recognising Frankfurt's importance as a financial centre, the firm opened an office there last November. The guide covers the main legal aspects of acquiring, managing and developing commercial property.

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## IN THE MARKET

### Facelift for listed HQ

□ The £37 million refurbishment of the Royal Exchange, one of the biggest projects in Britain, has restored to Guernsey Exchange its headquarters building. The project has also brought to the market 41,000 sq ft of offices in the most prominent location in the City of London, opposite the Bank of England and Mansion House.

□ The Grade I listed building now has air-conditioned offices, in self-contained suites ranging from 1,200 to 14,000 sq ft over five floors. Hillier and Parker and Baker Harris Saunders are asking £48 a sq ft. Some of the original period rooms have been restored to provide executive suites and boardrooms.

□ Hampton Gate, at Brackmills, Northampton, is a £13 million warehouse and distribution centre, which, at 193,400 sq ft, is the biggest speculative development of its type available in the UK. The scheme, by Legal & General Property, is on a nine-acre site and has 177,300 sq ft of warehousing. Hampton Gate is available at £6 a sq ft from Connell Wilson's Northampton office.

□ King Charles House, opposite Oxford railway station, is the city's largest building on the market. The air-conditioned project, providing 48,750 sq ft of space, is a development by Grosvenor Square Properties Group in conjunction with the Church Commissioners. Joint letting agents are Chesterton, Debenham Tewson & Chinnocks and Brian Cooper & Co.

### 'A boost for the commercial, leisure and industrial scenes'

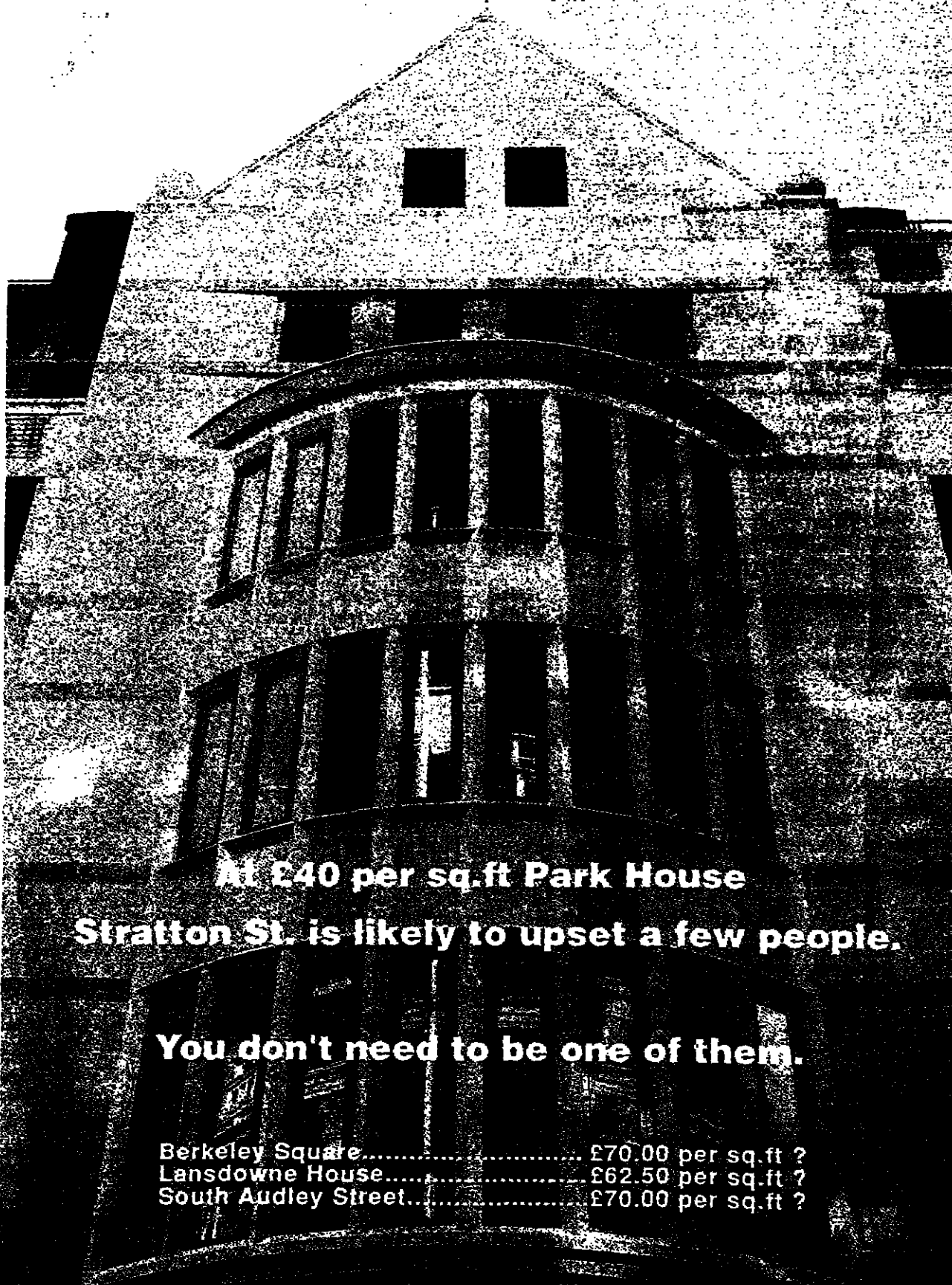
national property and insurance company activity shows that property in Germany, followed by France, is considered the most interesting. Spanish and northern Italian property is regarded as having high potential but is considered more risky than the mature markets of Britain, France and Germany.

"With 1992 fast approaching, the single European market should

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BOXING

# Benn's extra power should be enough to end Milo's hopes

By SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT

NIGEL Benn wants up for his return with Chris Eubank in November with a bout against Kid Milo, of Birmingham, at the Brentwood International Centre, tonight. It is a good match for everybody concerned, the boxers and Barry Hearn, the promoter.

Milo is a solid enough opponent to give Benn a few rounds of action, it gives Milo a chance to move up in the world, it will allow Eubank to gauge how much Benn has left in him, and gives Hearn the chance to start the publicity for the return with Eubank.

It is a good match for boxing followers also, as Milo has been improving, while Benn has been showing signs of decline. Will Milo be able to contain his natural fighting instincts and try to exhaust Benn as Michael Watson did

and knock him out, or take the fight to Benn? Will Benn wait for the right moment to knock out Milo, or take him out straight away?

Both men have much to lose. Benn's reputation, Milo his World Boxing Council (WBC) international title. Even though that title is not at stake, the WBC has stripped other Britons of their international titles after defeats in non-title bouts.

After the surprise defeat of Michael Nunn by James Tunney, anything is possible in boxing. Following the stoppage against Eubank because of a cut eye, Milo has looked impressive, knocking out the tough Australian, Lou Cafaro. Benn, on the other hand, seemed tentative against a Robbie Sims long past his prime. He knocked Sims out in the seventh round.

In every contest Benn has been able to take the heavier blows better than the jab. Somehow, the straight punch has Benn in trouble almost immediately. But since Milo is not so much a boxer as a fighter, the jab may not play too big a part and the contest should end early, with Benn's heavier punches knocking Milo out as he tries to defend himself by slogging it out.

A rematch between Jeff Fenech, the Australian super-flyweight, and Azumah Nelson, of Ghana, is likely to be ordered by the WBC. Joe Salimian, the president of the WBC, thought Fenech had won. "It was great fight, the greatest I have seen for many years," Salimian said, "and I was very surprised at the decision." The Australian national boxing federation has lodged a protest.

## McKenzie aims for £100,000

DUKE McKenzie, the World Boxing Organisation (WBO) bantamweight champion, could receive £100,000, the biggest purse for a boxer, if Orlando Canizales, the international Boxing Federation bantamweight champion, from Texas, agrees to meet him for the same fee (Srikumar Sen writes).

McKenzie's manager, Mickey Duff, who will be making the offer to Canizales within 72 hours, said yesterday the bout could be held in London in November. McKenzie, who won the WBO title from Canizales' brother, Gabby, last Sunday, said: "I think it will be a tactical fight. I don't think he could out-think me."

Andy Holligan, of Liverpool, will be giving up his European No. 1 position to allow his stablemate, Pat Barrett, the European champion, to challenge for the world light-welterweight title.

## Collins wants a swift ride to top

By BRYAN STILES

TONY Collins is a young man in a hurry. To many boxers the chance to capture a British title would be the highlight of their career; to Collins it seems to be something of a chore.

The Valley light-middleweight already holds the World Boxing Council international title — a battle squabbled over by those below the top ten in the world ratings — but he is anxious to appear in the brighter spotlights of the world to pocket bigger rewards.

He has just turned 21, and when he defended his international title successfully for the second time in May, he began shouting the odds about a meeting with Lloyd Honeyghan, a former world champion and just the kind of opponent to bring the attention he craves. In the next breath he was asking: "Who is Wally Swift, anyway?"

Swift is the British light-

middleweight champion he will be meeting tonight at the Rivermead Leisure Centre in Reading. Where Collins is brash and flamboyant, Swift is quiet and durable. It promises a clash of styles that make for a fascinating contest.

Swift, whose father is the former British welterweight and middleweight champion, won his title when he produced a well timed right-hand punch to beat Enslay Bingham, of Liverpool, in the fourth round.

Another boxer worth the entrance money at Reading is Colin McMillan, the talented featherweight, who took the British title from Gary de Roux in May. He takes on Herbie Vivilaqua, of New Orleans, who claims to have had 500 amateur bouts. He has won 21 of his 27 professional contests. McMillan, of Barking, has won 17 of his 18 contests.



Victory salute: Mitchell celebrates after beating Lewis and Johnson and the 100 metres in Lille on Monday

## Aouita's records may tumble

From DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT, STOCKHOLM

AS ATHLETES are fond of saying, nice though world records are, gold medals are nicer. But the world championships are still seven weeks away and the 30,000 full house in the Olympic Stadium here tonight will want records more than clues to what might happen in Tokyo.

You will not catch a 10.46sec 100 metres runner here nor his equivalent in most other events. This is a quality meeting with money well spent on bringing in the best. The best does not include Ben Johnson.

Carl Lewis, one of six who beat Johnson's 10.46sec in the race won by Dennis Mitchell in Lille on Monday, is here for the 200

metres. Leroy Burrell will run in the 100 metres. As they spoke at a press conference yesterday, Rajeev Soderberg, the meeting promoter, must have felt like the child who has a toy passed in front of him knowing he cannot have it.

Burrell said the 100 metres world record would not last the summer. He should know for, at 9.90sec, it belongs to him. Chasing Burrell home at the United States championships last month, Lewis ran 9.93sec.

But they will need to be in opposition for the record to happen so Soderberg's meeting will not witness it. He will be paying more attention to the 1,500 and 5,000 metres. Long though the odds must be, Said Aouita could lose two records in one evening.

Nouredine Morceli, of Algeria, showed vast potential in Helsinki last Thursday for taking Aouita's 1,500 metres record of 3min 29.46sec. He ran 3min 31.00sec in his first outdoor 1,500 metres of the season.

Simon Fairbrother, of Britain, gets a taste of the big-time while Tony Morrell and Matthew Yates deepen the British interest.

Aouita's 5,000 metres world record is at risk because tonight brings together Salvatore Antibo, the European champion, from Italy, and Richard Chelimo, the teenager who sprang from the mass ranks of Kenyan distance runners to record the second-fastest 10,000 metres in history last week.

Antibo took the European title last summer in the

absence of the previous holder, Jack Buckner, of Britain. Tonight will be Buckner's first 5,000 metres for 18 months and, judging by his 7min 54.77sec 3,000 metres ten days ago, inside 13min 30sec is possible.

Aouita's world record is 12min 58.39sec.

There are four British winners from the European Cup last weekend — Dalton Grant, Kriss Akabusi, Tom McKean and Colin Jackson. Mark Everett, of the United States, will remind McKean that Europe is cosy by comparison with the outside world of 800 metres running.

The message for Jackson may be that Tony Jarrett, fresh from his 13.19sec in Lille, will be more dangerous to him than any American in Tokyo.

SPORT FOR THE

DISABLED

## Defence earns runner-up award

By JANE WYATT

A BRILLIANT display of defensive play by the British women's football team has secured second place in the British Blind Sport international invitation tournament held at the National Sea Training College in Gravesend. This is a substantial improvement on last year's performance, when the team failed to reach the semi-finals.

Great Britain scored only three times on the way to the final against the Swedish A team, but did not concede a goal until extra time in that match, which Sweden eventually won 2-0. Finland, playing in the competition for the first time, were third, but the world champion, Denmark, could manage only fifth place.

The nature of football, with only three players from each team on court together, means that individuals can greatly influence the outcome of play. Two women with outstanding skill who kept their teams in commanding positions during the tournament were Monica Nilsson, of Sweden, and Tess Thompson, from Birmingham.

In contrast to the defensive play which characterised the women's event, the men's competition was notable for its powerful attacking style. Forty-one of the 150 goals scored in the tournament came from the winners, Netherlands A, for whom Arnold de Voogt netted 18.

The men's event was dominated by the Netherlands and Sweden, who took the top four places between them with Great Britain trailing seventh and eighth.

Players selected for the British teams at the European football championships at Lahr in August include, for the women, Anita Deb, Laura Evans, Adele Freeman, Helen Reynolds, Tess Thompsons and Heather Taylor, and for the men, Derek Allen, David Clarke, Roger Clifton, Tony Reddish, Julian Griffin and Alastair Fairweather.

In the BSAD/British Telecom senior swimming championship in Darlington, the team trophy was won by Scotland. Five national records were set by Tara Flood, in the 50 and 100 metres backstroke, 50 and 100 metres freestyle and 50 metres breaststroke.

# Tripes examination results from Cambridge university

Law Tripos

Part IB

Class 1: M. E. M. (1st), J. D. J. (2nd), J. P. (3rd), J. A. (4th), J. B. (5th), J. C. (6th), J. D. (7th), J. E. (8th), J. F. (9th), J. G. (10th), J. H. (11th), J. I. (12th), J. J. (13th), J. K. (14th), J. L. (15th), J. M. (16th), J. N. (17th), J. O. (18th), J. P. (19th), J. Q. (20th), J. R. (21st), J. S. (22nd), J. T. (23rd), J. U. (24th), J. V. (25th), J. W. (26th), J. X. (27th), J. Y. (28th), J. Z. (29th), J. A. (30th), J. B. (31st), J. C. (32nd), J. D. (33rd), J. E. (34th), J. F. (35th), J. G. (36th), J. H. (37th), J. I. (38th), J. J. (39th), J. K. (40th), J. L. (41st), J. M. (42nd), J. N. (43rd), J. O. (44th), J. P. (45th), J. Q. (46th), J. R. (47th), J. S. (48th), J. T. (49th), J. U. (50th), J. V. (51st), J. W. (52nd), J. X. (53rd), J. Y. (54th), J. Z. (55th), J. A. (56th), J. B. (57th), J. C. (58th), J. D. (59th), J. E. (60th), J. F. (61st), J. G. (62nd), J. H. (63rd), J. I. (64th), J. J. (65th), J. K. (66th), J. L. (67th), J. M. (68th), J. N. (69th), J. O. (70th), J. P. (71st), J. Q. (72nd), J. R. (73rd), J. S. (74th), J. T. (75th), J. U. (76th), J. V. (77th), J. W. (78th), J. X. (79th), J. Y. (80th), J. Z. (81st), J. A. (82nd), J. B. (83rd), J. C. (84th), J. D. (85th), J. E. (86th), J. F. (87th), J. G. (88th), J. H. (89th), J. I. (90th), J. J. (91st), J. K. (92nd), J. L. (93rd), J. M. (94th), J. N. (95th), J. O. (96th), J. P. (97th), J. Q. (98th), J. R. (99th), J. S. (100th).

Class 2: M. E. M. (1st), J. D. J. (2nd), J. P. (3rd), J. A. (4th), J. B. (5th), J. C. (6th), J. D. (7th), J. E. (8th), J. F. (9th), J. G. (10th), J. H. (11th), J. I. (12th), J. J. (13th), J. K. (14th), J. L. (15th), J. M. (16th), J. N. (17th), J. O. (18th), J. P. (19th), J. Q. (20th), J. R. (21st), J. S. (22nd), J. T. (23rd), J. U. (24th), J. V. (25th), J. W. (26th), J. X. (27th), J. Y. (28th), J. Z. (29th), J. A. (30th), J. B. (31st), J. C. (32nd), J. D. (33rd), J. E. (34th), J. F. (35th), J. G. (36th), J. H. (37th), J. I. (38th), J. J. (39th), J. K. (40th), J. L. (41st), J. M. (42nd), J. N. (43rd), J. O. (44th), J. P. (45th), J. Q. (46th), J. R. (47th), J. S. (48th), J. T. (49th), J. U. (50th), J. V. (51st), J. W. (52nd), J. X. (53rd), J. Y. (54th), J. Z. (55th), J. A. (56th), J. B. (57th), J. C. (58th), J. D. (59th), J. E. (60th), J. F. (61st), J. G. (62nd), J. H. (63rd), J. I. (64th), J. J. (65th), J. K. (66th), J. L. (67th), J. M. (68th), J. N. (69th), J. O. (70th), J. P. (71st), J. Q. (72nd), J. R. (73rd), J. S. (74th), J. T. (75th), J. U. (76th), J. V. (77th), J. W. (78th), J. X. (79th), J. Y. (80th), J. Z. (81st), J. A. (82nd), J. B. (83rd), J. C. (84th), J. D. (85th), J. E. (86th), J. F. (87th), J. G. (88th), J. H. (89th), J. I. (90th), J. J. (91st), J. K. (92nd), J. L. (93rd), J. M. (94th), J. N. (95th), J. O. (96th), J. P. (97th), J. Q. (98th), J. R. (99th), J. S. (100th).

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Class 5: M. E. M. (1st), J. D. J. (2nd), J. P. (3rd), J. A. (4th), J. B. (5th), J. C. (6th), J. D. (7th), J. E. (8th), J. F. (9th), J. G. (10th), J. H. (11th), J. I. (12th), J. J. (13th), J. K. (14th), J. L. (15th), J. M. (16th), J. N. (17th), J. O. (18th), J. P. (19th), J. Q. (20th), J. R. (21st), J. S. (22nd), J. T. (23rd), J. U. (24th), J. V. (25th), J. W. (26th), J. X. (27th), J. Y. (28th), J. Z. (29th), J. A. (30th), J. B. (31st), J. C. (32nd), J. D. (33rd), J. E. (34th), J. F. (35th), J. G. (36th), J. H. (37th), J. I. (38th), J. J. (39th), J. K. (40th), J. L. (41st), J. M. (42nd), J. N. (43rd), J. O. (44th), J. P. (45th), J. Q. (46th), J. R. (47th), J. S. (48th), J. T. (49th), J. U. (50th), J. V. (51st), J. W. (52nd), J. X. (53rd), J. Y. (54th), J. Z. (55th), J. A. (56th), J. B. (57th), J. C. (58th), J. D. (59th), J. E. (60th), J. F. (61st), J. G. (62nd), J. H. (63rd), J. I. (64th), J. J. (65th), J. K. (66th), J. L. (67th), J. M. (68th), J. N. (69th), J. O. (70th), J. P. (71st), J. Q. (72nd), J. R. (73rd), J. S. (74th), J. T. (75th), J. U. (76th), J. V. (77th), J. W. (78th), J. X. (79th), J. Y. (80th), J. Z. (81st), J. A. (82nd), J. B. (83rd), J. C. (84th), J. D. (85th), J. E. (86th), J. F. (87th), J. G. (88th), J. H. (89th), J. I. (90th), J. J. (91st), J. K. (92nd), J. L. (93rd), J. M. (94th), J. N. (95th), J. O. (96th), J. P. (97th), J. Q. (98th), J. R. (99th), J. S. (100th).

Class 6: M. E. M. (1st), J. D. J. (2nd), J. P. (3rd), J. A. (4th), J. B. (5th), J. C. (6th), J. D. (7th), J. E. (8th), J. F. (9th), J. G. (10th), J. H. (11th), J. I. (12th), J. J. (13th), J. K. (14th), J. L. (15th), J. M. (16th), J. N. (17th), J. O. (18th), J. P. (19th), J. Q. (20th), J. R. (21st), J. S. (22nd), J. T. (23rd), J. U. (24th), J. V. (25th), J. W. (26th), J. X. (27th), J. Y. (28th), J. Z. (29th), J. A. (30th), J. B. (31st), J. C. (32nd), J. D. (33rd), J. E. (34th), J. F. (35th), J. G. (36th), J. H. (37th), J. I. (38th), J. J. (39th), J. K. (40th), J. L. (41st), J. M. (42nd), J. N. (43rd), J. O. (44th), J. P. (45th), J. Q. (46th), J. R. (47th), J. S. (48th), J. T. (49th), J. U. (50th), J. V. (51st), J. W. (52nd), J. X. (53rd), J. Y. (54th), J. Z. (55th), J. A. (56th), J. B. (57th), J. C. (58th), J. D. (59th), J. E. (60th), J. F. (61st), J. G. (62nd), J. H. (63rd), J. I. (64th), J. J. (65th), J. K. (66th), J. L. (67th), J. M. (68th), J. N. (69th), J. O. (70th), J. P. (71st), J. Q. (72nd), J. R. (73rd), J. S. (74th), J. T. (75th), J. U. (76th), J. V. (77th), J. W. (78th), J. X. (79th), J. Y. (80th), J. Z. (81st), J. A. (82nd), J. B. (83rd), J. C. (84th), J. D. (85th), J. E. (86th), J. F. (87th), J. G. (88th), J. H. (89th), J. I. (90th), J. J. (91st), J. K. (92nd), J. L. (93rd), J. M. (94th), J. N. (95th), J. O. (96th), J. P. (97th), J. Q. (98th), J. R. (99th), J. S. (100th).

Class 7: M. E. M. (1st), J. D. J. (2nd), J. P. (3rd), J. A. (4th), J. B. (5th), J. C. (6th), J. D. (7th), J. E. (8th), J. F. (9th), J. G. (10th), J. H. (11th), J. I. (12th), J. J. (13th), J. K. (14th), J. L. (15th), J. M. (16th), J. N. (17th), J. O. (18th), J. P. (19th), J. Q. (20th), J. R. (21st), J. S. (22nd), J. T. (23rd), J. U. (24th), J. V. (25th), J. W. (26th), J. X. (27th), J. Y. (28th), J. Z. (29th), J. A. (30th), J. B. (31st), J. C. (32nd), J. D. (33rd), J. E. (34th), J. F. (35th), J. G. (36th), J. H. (37th), J. I. (38th), J. J. (39th), J. K. (40th), J. L. (41st), J. M. (42nd), J. N. (43rd), J. O. (44th), J. P. (45th), J. Q. (46th), J. R. (47th), J. S. (48th), J. T. (49th), J. U. (50th), J. V. (51st), J. W. (52nd), J. X. (53rd), J. Y. (54th), J. Z. (55th), J. A. (56th), J. B. (57th), J. C. (58th), J. D. (59th), J. E. (60th), J. F. (61st), J. G. (62nd), J. H. (63rd), J. I. (64th), J. J. (65th), J. K. (66th), J. L. (67th), J. M. (68th), J. N. (69th), J. O. (70th), J. P. (71st), J. Q. (72nd), J. R. (73rd), J. S. (74th), J. T. (75th), J. U. (76th), J. V. (77th), J. W. (78th), J. X. (79th), J. Y. (80th), J. Z. (81st), J. A. (82nd), J. B. (83rd), J. C. (84th), J. D. (85th), J. E. (86th), J. F. (87th), J. G. (88th), J. H. (89th), J. I. (90th), J. J. (91st), J. K. (92nd), J. L. (93rd), J. M. (94th), J. N. (95th), J. O. (96th), J. P. (97th), J. Q. (98th), J. R. (99th), J. S. (100th).

Class 8: M. E. M. (1st), J. D. J. (2nd), J. P. (3rd), J. A. (4th), J. B. (5th), J. C. (6th), J. D. (7th), J. E. (8th), J. F. (9th), J. G. (10th), J. H. (11th), J. I. (12th), J. J. (13th), J. K. (14th), J. L. (15th), J. M. (16th), J. N. (17th), J. O. (18th), J. P. (19th), J. Q. (20th), J. R. (21st), J. S. (22nd), J. T. (23rd), J. U. (24th), J. V. (25th), J. W. (26th), J. X. (27th), J. Y. (28th), J. Z. (29th), J. A. (30th), J. B. (31st), J. C. (32nd), J. D. (33rd), J. E. (34th), J. F. (35th), J. G. (36th), J. H. (37th), J. I. (38th), J. J. (39th), J. K. (40th), J. L. (41st), J. M. (42nd), J. N. (43rd), J. O. (44th), J. P. (45th), J. Q. (46th), J. R. (47th), J. S. (48th), J. T. (49th), J. U. (50th), J. V. (51st), J. W. (52nd), J. X. (53rd), J. Y. (54th), J. Z. (55th), J. A. (56th), J. B. (57th), J. C. (58th), J. D. (59th), J. E. (60th), J. F. (61st), J. G. (62nd), J. H. (63rd), J. I. (64th), J. J. (65th), J. K. (66th), J. L. (67th), J. M. (68th), J. N. (69th), J. O. (70th), J. P. (71st), J. Q. (72nd), J. R. (73rd), J. S. (74th), J. T. (75th), J. U. (76th), J. V. (77th), J. W. (78th), J. X. (79th), J. Y. (80th), J. Z. (81st), J. A. (82nd), J. B. (83rd), J. C. (84th), J. D. (85th), J. E. (86th), J. F. (87th), J. G. (88th), J. H. (89th), J. I. (90th), J. J. (91st), J. K. (92nd), J. L. (93rd), J. M. (94th), J. N. (95th), J. O. (96th), J. P. (97th), J. Q. (98th), J. R. (99th), J. S. (100th).

Law Tripos

Part II

Class 1: M. E. M. (1st), J. D. J. (2nd), J. P. (3rd), J. A. (4th), J. B. (5th), J. C. (6th), J. D. (7th), J. E. (8th), J. F. (9th), J. G. (10th), J. H. (11th), J. I. (12th), J. J. (13th), J. K. (14th), J. L. (15th), J. M. (16th), J. N. (17th), J. O. (18th), J. P. (19th), J. Q. (20th), J. R. (21st), J. S. (22nd), J. T. (23rd), J. U. (24th), J. V. (25th), J. W. (26th), J. X. (27th), J. Y. (28th), J. Z. (29th), J. A. (30th), J. B. (31st), J. C. (32nd), J. D. (33rd), J. E. (34th), J. F. (35th), J. G. (36th), J. H. (37th), J. I. (38th), J. J. (39th), J. K. (40th), J. L. (41st), J. M. (42nd), J. N. (43rd), J. O. (44th), J. P. (45th), J. Q. (46th), J. R. (47th), J. S. (48th), J. T. (49th), J. U. (50th), J. V. (51st), J. W. (52nd), J. X. (53rd), J. Y. (54th), J. Z. (55th), J. A. (56th), J. B. (57th), J. C. (58th), J. D. (59th), J. E. (60th), J. F. (61st), J. G. (62nd), J. H. (63rd), J. I. (64th), J. J. (65th), J. K. (66th), J. L. (67th), J. M. (68th), J. N. (69th), J. O. (70th), J. P. (71st), J. Q. (72nd), J. R. (73rd), J. S. (74th), J. T. (75th), J. U. (76th), J. V. (77th), J. W. (78th), J. X. (79th), J. Y. (80th), J. Z. (81st), J. A. (82nd), J. B. (83rd), J. C. (84th), J. D. (85th), J. E. (86th), J. F. (87th), J. G. (88th), J. H. (89th), J. I. (90th), J. J. (91st), J. K. (92nd), J. L. (93rd), J. M. (94th), J. N. (95th), J. O. (96th), J. P. (97th), J. Q. (98th), J. R. (99th), J. S. (100th).

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How a British tennis hopeful has gone out of his way, and overcome a handicap, to aim for the top

## If you cannot beat them, join them

They call it the tennis factory, and every year a new model rolls off the production line, much like the last, typically powerful and usually American, and with the same distinctive trademark. It may not be that of a Rolls-Royce, more one of the high-performance Italian brands: so for Ferrari, read Nick Bollettieri.

Pete Sampras, the US Open champion, is a Bollettieri product, so too is Jim Courier, the French champion. Beaten in the final at both events was Andre Agassi and there are no prizes for guessing where he, or the women's No. 1, Monica Seles, came from. The Nick Bollettieri Tennis Academy, in Bradenton, Florida, where the production line is still rolling.

It barely stops. From dawn until dusk, children remorselessly hit tennis balls under a burning sun to the rhythm of thudding forehands and yelling coaches. Up to 50 courts can be in use, as well as an athletics track and a gym.

Prodigies from 40 countries live on site and line up to learn the ropes according to Nick. To English eyes, it appears alien. The familiar, genteel, suburban tennis club is a place of leisure, a world away from the sprawl of courts, the draw of coaches, the scale and the intensity of Bradenton. Nevertheless, alongside the Colombians, Italians, Germans and Yugoslavs are a handful of Britons, and the newest of them is still coming to terms with his culture shock.

Aged 15, Sidney Falconer entered the academy armed with a racket and ready to play. Now, back at home in Poole, Dorset, he wants only to work. Less than six months of sweat and toil in the Florida sun have instilled an eerie discipline in one so young, even if the change was, at first, a difficult one.

"It was hell," Falconer said.

British interest in the singles at Wimbledon this year has ended.

But from the American tennis factory which has manufactured Agassi and Courier

Peter Robinson finds a home hope for a future champion

"They work you so much harder in America, and it was so hot, like the desert," he said. "If the coaches are not satisfied, they make you do 50 press-ups on the spot, and after 25, the court was so hot, it burned your hands. They are really serious. It took me three months to get used to it."

Monday to Friday, the routine barely changed. Tennis in the mornings, beginning at 8.30, and tennis in the afternoons. After that, an hour's running and after that, an hour's weight training. The weekends were a little easier — providing, of course, they were not set aside for tournaments.

Nothing was left to chance. "They concentrate on everything they can," Falconer said. "They even video you and go through the film pointing out your mistakes. They work on your fitness and they work on your mental toughness. It was so different to what I had done before."

The contrast with tennis at "home" was not very flattering. "People here don't know what work is. The coaches are really easy. Players muck about when they are on court, the Americans would never let you do that. When I first got to America, they thought, because I was British, that I was rubbish. When I started playing, the coaches said I was doing everything wrong. They



Product of a new regime: Sidney Falconer, back in Britain with an improved attitude

changed all my strokes."

But the scepticism quickly waned, replaced, as he rose through the ranks of the academy, by thinly-disguised surprise. The reason: if being British were not handicap enough for a tennis player, Falconer is also deaf. Yet, though beginning in group six of the 11 Bollettieri bands — a halfway house between satellite professional standard

and either very young or not very promising — he rapidly reached group two, under the charge of senior instructor, Chip Brooks.

"Sid is remarkable," Brooks said. "We sit in amazement here at how he can do what he does without hearing the racket hit the ball. You can tell so much by simply hearing that sound. I can honestly say Sid has as much talent as

anybody we have here. He can do things with a tennis ball you just can't teach. When he left, he was ready for group one."

Bollettieri, looking to the future, said: "It is too early to say whether a boy will make it as a professional at 15 years old, but if you are in group one or two, then that is where the very special ones are at 15. From there, it all depends on

how you develop physically and mentally."

Brooks has coached Agassi, Sampras, Courier and Wheaton. "If Sid returns here in September when we start again," he said, "I think we may be looking at him in the same way as we once did them. He has the potential to be world-class." You can almost hear the production line cranking into gear.

## Two find their feet not made of clay

By ALIX RAMSAY

WHO says clay court players cannot win on grass? Obviously not Michael Stich and Jim Courier, two men who have had their best wins on clay and who yesterday reached the quarter-finals of Wimbledon to set up something of an old boys' reunion.

The last time these two met was in the semi-finals of the French Open when Courier won before going on to take the title. But that was on clay, and as the experts keep telling us, clay and grass are two completely different ball games.

Yesterday, however, Courier looked at home on No. 1 court as he beat Karel Novacek 6-3, 6-4, 6-2. After his success in Paris, he was home to Florida to get some rest but could not take the constant media attention and came back to Wimbledon early to escape the pressure.

Courier, at 20, is a quiet-spoken and easy-going chap. Wearing a baseball cap he just gets on with the job. He has worked all year to improve his volleying and against Novacek it paid off as he tried out his net game to take the first set and then, when Novacek decided to stay back and try to beat him from the baseline, he won that battle too.

The harder Novacek tried, the less it worked and as the Czechoslovak got progressively angrier with himself and the line judges, Courier moved nearer the quarter-finals. Courier, is making no prediction how far he gets this year. As he puts it: "I'm not a professional player on grass. Not a comfortable player on the grass, but one who can play well on it at times." But Lendl has already gone and there is only the unpredictable Stich between him and the semi-



finals. No wonder he is keeping quiet.

Stich made his way to the quarter-finals with a topsy-turvy struggle against Alexander Volkov. Both managed to play sensational tennis at times and play like complete amateurs at others.

They plugged away at each other for a little over three hours but in the end the match turned out to be a net cord. Volkov had broken in the first game of the fifth set and seemed to be heading for a certain victory until at 5-4 and 30-30 he pulled Stich wide with a volley and then watched in disbelief as the German scrambled to get a touch on the ball.

His shot looked to be going out until it hit the net cord and bounced over Volkov's outstretched racket leaving Volkov a break point down and effectively out of the match as Stich went on to win 4-6, 6-3, 7-5, 1-6, 7-5.

Stich said: "I think that was one of the most important points I've ever played." Three hours of sweat and a split second of inspiration. Tennis is a funny old game.

## Pickup joins Park

Ian Pickup, the English Universities rugby union captain and back-row forward, has joined Rosslyn Park from Coventry after completing his studies at Warwick University.

## Men's singles

Winner: £240,000  
Runner-up: £120,000  
Holder: S Edberg (Swe)

Fourth round  
S Edberg (Swe) bt J P McEnroe (US), 7-6, 6-1, 6-4  
J Courier (Fr) bt K Novacek (Cz), 6-3, 6-4, 6-2  
M Stich (Ger) bt A Volkov (USSR), 4-6, 6-3, 7-5, 1-6, 7-5  
D Wheaton (US) bt J Gunnarsson (Swe), 6-4, 6-0, 6-1

## Unfinished matches

T Champion (Fr) leads D Rostagno (US), 6-7, 6-2, 6-1, 3-6, 4-1  
G Forget (Fr) leads T Mayotte (SA), 7-6, 6-2, 4-3

## Men's doubles

Winners: £96,330 per pair  
Runners-up: £48,165 per pair  
Holders: R Leach (US) and J Pugh (US)

Second round  
S Davis and D Pate (US) bt H Heim and P Nyborg (Swe), 6-3, 7-6, 6-3  
J Flans (Arg) and L Lavalle (Mex) bt G Muller and D Visser (SA), 7-6, 6-3

Third round  
G Connell (Can) and G Michabata (Can) bt K Flach (US) and B Seguso (US), 6-4, 7-6  
J Flans (Arg) and L Lavalle (Mex) bt P Haarhuis (Neth) and M Koevman (Neth), 6-3, 6-4  
W Ferreira (SA) and P Norval (SA) bt S E Davis (US) and D Pate (US), 7-6, 6-7, 9-7

## Unfinished match

J B Fitzgerald and A Jarryd (Swe) lead M Krazmann and S You (Aus), 7-6, 4-3



Courier: quarter-final berth

## Women's singles

Winner: £215,000  
Runner-up: £108,000  
Holder: M Navratilova (US)

Fifth round  
S Graf (Ger) bt Z L Garrison (US), 6-1, 6-2  
M Fernandez (US) bt A Sanchez Vicario (Sp), 6-2, 7-6

## Women's doubles

Winners: £96,330 per pair  
Runners-up: £48,165 per pair  
Holders: J Novotna (Cz) and H Sukova (Cz)

First round  
M J Fernandez and Z Garrison (US) bt L Laskova (Cz) and E Mandlikova (USSR), 6-2, 6-3  
J Novotna (Cz) and H Sukova (Cz) bt R Flach (US) and B Seguso (US), 6-4, 7-6  
J Flans (Arg) and L Lavalle (Mex) bt P Haarhuis (Neth) and M Koevman (Neth), 6-3, 6-4  
W Ferreira (SA) and P Norval (SA) bt S E Davis (US) and D Pate (US), 7-6, 6-7, 9-7

## Unfinished match

J B Fitzgerald and A Jarryd (Swe) lead M Krazmann and S You (Aus), 7-6, 4-3

## Mixed doubles

Winners: £41,720 per pair  
Runners-up: £20,860 per pair  
Holders: Z Garrison (US) and R Leach (US)

First round  
J Pugh (US) and N Zvereva (USSR) bt B Brown and C Wood (GB), 6-2, 6-3  
K Evernden (NZ) and R McQuillan (Aus) bt S Stolle (Aus) and N Van Lottum (Fr), 3-6, 6-3, 6-4  
P Norval (SA) and M Bollegraf (Neth) bt M Pattey and S Loscower (GB), 6-4, 6-1  
M Koevman and H Ter Riet (Neth) bt D Macpherson and K Goodridge (Aus), 6-3, 6-4  
B Taltiel (Arg) and J Cordwell (NZ) bt S Melville and B Somerville (US), 7-6, 6-7, 6-1  
G Connell (Can) and K Rinaldi (US) bt K Thorne (US) and S Wilborn (Indo), 6-4, 6-3  
M Woodford (Aus) and A Fraser (US) bt P Galarneau (US) and P Fendick (US), 6-1, 1-6, 6-4  
K Flach and K Jordan (US) bt S Cannon and K Adams (US), 7-6, 6-4  
S Salmons (US) and K Kuchwast (Lux) bt R W Van't Hof and C Macgregor (US), 4-6, 6-1, 11-9

## Unfinished matches

W Ferreira and L Gregory (SA) lead K Kinnear and C Benjamin (US), 6-2, 4-3, 3-3  
N Borwick and A Scott (Aus) level with B Kinnear and C Benjamin (US), 6-4, 3-6, 1-1

## Today's play

1pm start on centre and No. 1 courts  
Centre court: J Courier (US) v M Navratilova (US) to finish: A Agassi (US) v J Eltingh (Neth)

Court One: L Goldberger (Peru) v G Sabatini (Arg) to finish: C Bergstrom (Swe) v B Becker (Ger)

## KEY

Arg: Argentina; Aus: Australia; Bel: Belgium; Br: Brazil; Bulg: Bulgaria; Can: Canada; Cze: Czechoslovakia; Den: Denmark; Ec: Ecuador; Eng: England; Esp: Spain; Fin: Finland; Fr: France; Ger: Germany; Gbr: Great Britain; Gre: Greece; Hong: Hong Kong; Hun: Hungary; Ind: Indonesia; Ir: Ireland; Ita: Italy; Ken: Kenya; Mex: Mexico; Mor: Morocco; NZ: New Zealand; Neth: The Netherlands; Nor: Norway; Pol: Poland; Por: Portugal; Puerto: Puerto Rico; Rom: Romania; S4: South Africa; Sp: Spain; Swe: Sweden; Swi: Switzerland; Thai: Thailand; Ukr: Ukraine; US: United States; USSR: Soviet Union; Ven: Venezuela; Yug: Yugoslavia; Zim: Zimbabwe



Navratilova: cliffhanger

## RUGBY LEAGUE

## Children will benefit from fund raising

THE National Children's Home was yesterday adopted by the Rugby Football League in the first of a series of fund-raising events between a major sport and a national charity (Keith Macklin writes).

The league yesterday launched a five-year fund-raising programme to support the charity, and the actress, Glenda Jackson, herself a supporter of the home, was presented with an initial cheque for £10,000 by the league chairman, Bob Ashby.

The main feature of the fund-raising efforts will be a penny appeal, with one penny being donated by the 36 professional clubs in the three divisions for each supporter passing through the turnstiles throughout a season. This project alone is expected to raise at least £17,000 a year.

It is expected that an annual collection will be taken at the Challenge Cup final at Wembley, and there will be other functions including dinners.

## RUGBY UNION

## No-standing scheme for Murrayfield

By ALAN LORIMER

THE Scottish Rugby Union yesterday unveiled plans for the redevelopment of Murrayfield to make it an all-seater stadium, with a capacity of 65,000.

The cost of what is an ambitious but necessary plan in the wake of the Taylor Report is estimated at £30- to £35 million and raising this is one of the immediate priorities for the union which has appointed a team of advisers who were closely linked with similar projects at Ibrox and Highbury.

Fred McLeon, the SRU finance convener, revealed that the government would be approached for assistance and that the union would also be seeking support from the EC. Finance will be raised both publicly and corporately.

Work on the three-stage development is likely to start at the end of next season, five months after the completion of the Taylor report, with the building of new two-tier stands to replace the north and south terraces. These would sweep round to join the east stand.

Stage two, starting in March, 1993, would involve the west wing stands and replace them with new covered seating areas flanking with the north and south stands. Finally, in March, 1994, work would begin on the final stage of extending the west stand to include a second tier and constructing a new roof that would not be supported as at present by intrusive pillars.

## NETBALL

## England on target at world titles

ENGLAND have made a winning start to the world championships in Australia, which began in Sydney on Monday (Louise Taylor writes).

After a 48-22 win against Scotland they yesterday defeated Singapore, 92-7.

"It was a very easy match but one which gave the shooters great confidence," Joyce Wheeler, the England manager, said. Trudy Pappe scored from 70 of 89 shots and Yvonne Foster netted 22 from 38.

Scotland bounced back with a 58-33 success against Sri Lanka yesterday, while Northern Ireland edged out Papua New Guinea, 49-47. On Monday Rhian Jones scored 77 goals in Wales's 82-23 win over Malaysia after sitting her final A level examination in Australia.

## POLO

## Kennelot's challenge crushed by Cowdray

By JOHN WATSON

IN THE challenge for the British Open championships, which continued at Midhurst, Sussex, yesterday, Cowdray Park beat Kennelot 12-9.

Henri Kwiatkowski's Kennelot did well to hold their opponents to such a narrow margin because Cowdray deploy one of the most impressive high-goal combinations this season.

Their tactics look soundly rehearsed and Tomas Escudra, their Argentine No. 2, always seems in close empathy with his British partners, Withers, Kent and Pearson.

At trading-in time, Cowdray were leading 6-2, after which Kennelot made an admirable recovery. Oliver Ellis, their back, opened the second half with his third galloping goal.

In the fifth and sixth chukkas, the team's pivot man, Fortunato Gomez, converted two penalties and sent another between the posts from the open to make it 6-0.

Unfortunately, Kennelot committed a series of crosses which gave Kent, Cowdray's mercurial No. 3, the opportunity to show his gift for hitting high-lofted 60-yarders — three of which found the Kennelot flags.

In the other open matches, Trumantons beat Black Bears 12-7. Maple Leafs defeated Los Locos 12-7. Hildon gained a 9-3 win over Labegorce, and Ellerton Black triumphed 12-10 against Munipione.

## FOOTBALL

## Marseilles in £12m bid for Skuhravy

PRAGUE (Reuter) — The Marseilles president, Bernard Tapie, has offered a world record £12 million to Genoa for the Czechoslovak forward, Tomas Skuhravy, a report in Czechoslovak Sport said yesterday.

## IN BRIEF

## Ferrari's gamble

FERRARI will give their new 643 model its introductory race at the French grand prix on Sunday, with Alain Prost and Jean Alesi driving the two cars.

## SPORTS POLITICS

South Africa's return to world competition in athletics could be cleared by this Friday, Lamine Diack, leading a visiting International Amateur Athletic Federation group, said in Johannesburg.

RUGBY UNION: The international between Wales and France at the National Ground, Cardiff, will now be played 10 days earlier, on Wednesday, September 4 (kick-off 8.00pm), to allow the French to play in club championship fixtures the following weekend.

SAILING: Cambridge dominated the opening day of the university match against Oxford, the holders, at Titchener club, their men leading by two races to nil and the women winning all their four races.



Time catches up with McEnroe in the battle between past and present Wimbledon winners on the centre court

# Edberg gives a champion's display

By Andrew Longmore  
Tennis Correspondent

NOT that long ago, the sight of a Swede on centre court at Wimbledon would have prompted John McEnroe to scale the heights of his game. Yesterday, it was Stefan Edberg, not Bjorn Borg, on the other side of the net, and the former champion was barely climbing the foothills as the defending champion strode to the summit.

In the second set, Edberg reeled off a series of breathtaking passes and arrowed volleys which would have destroyed a player in far better form than McEnroe at present. Edberg has not played as well as that since his semi-final against Lendl 12 months ago, and McEnroe, who came into his thirteenth Wimbledon without a win to his name since April, found that memory was not a strong enough weapon to combat such an onslaught.

He growled well, stalked the court as menacingly as ever, swished his racket, grumbled and abused a linesman, but nothing could hide the fact that he was soundly beaten. Casting sentiment, reputation and memory aside, the score — 7-6, 6-1, 6-4 to Edberg — was about right for the No. 1 seed playing the No. 16 seed in the last 16, the sort of score by which McEnroe himself used to dispatch lesser men in his prime.

There was just enough time to imagine how McEnroe 1984 might have fared against Edberg 1991, to contemplate the meaning of the space age doodles on the defending champion's new shirt and the reason for the empty seats in the stands — a far cry, in every sense, from the euphoria of the mid-Sunday — when it was all over.

The first set took 66 minutes, the last two an hour. "He's a great player when he's ahead. In that sense, I think we are similar," McEnroe said. But not in many other ways, on the evidence of yesterday's performance. The main difficulty for McEnroe, at the age of 32, is that in almost every way except the quality of his tennis, he is exactly the same as ever. He



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therefore, encourages comparisons which hurt.

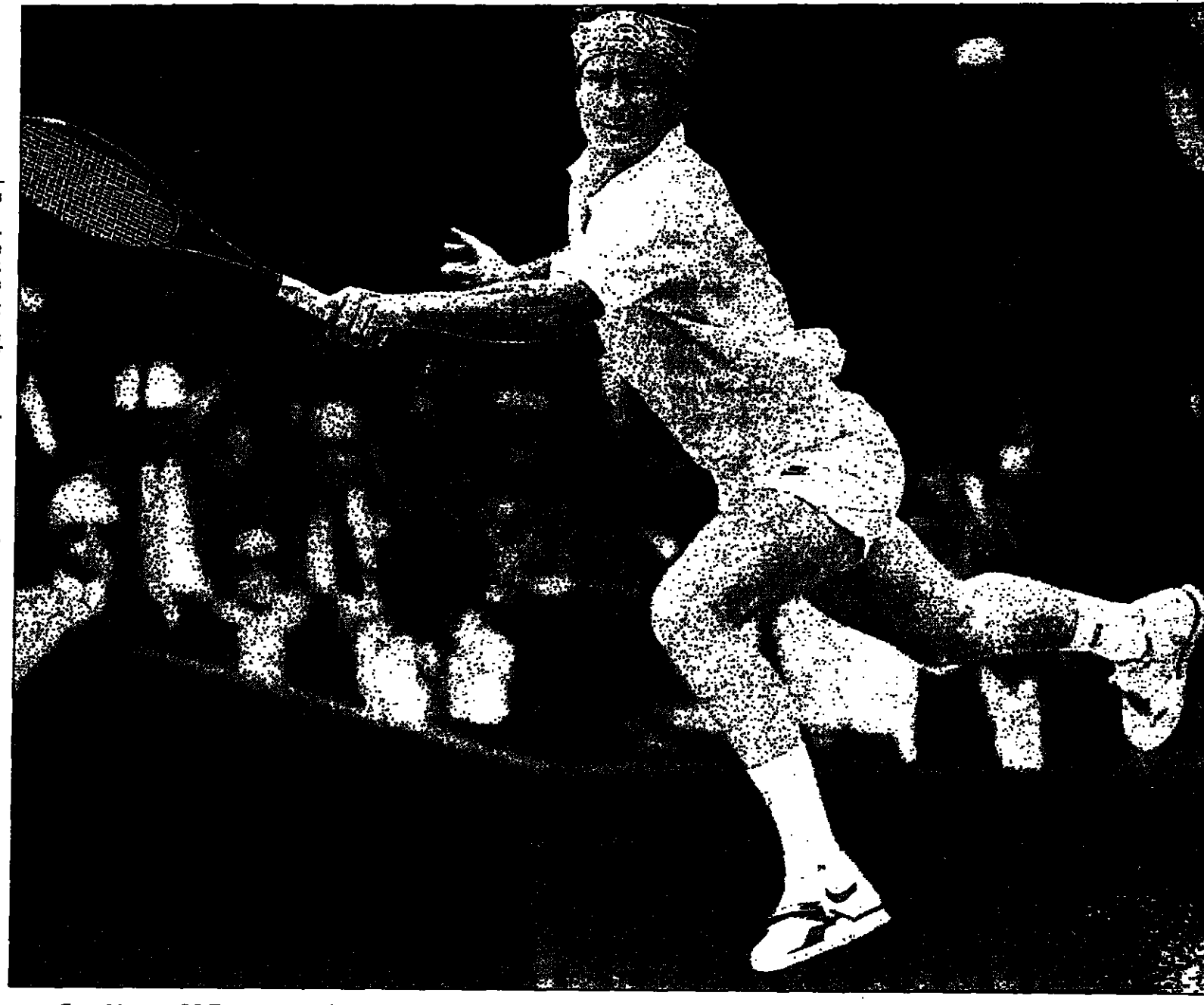
"When you've done it before, you are painfully aware that you are not doing what it takes. Whether you win or lose in the end matters, not whether you play great shots," McEnroe said. But there is the difference. The McEnroe of old produced great shots when it mattered and won. These days, he produces some great shots, notably a series of backhand passes and drop volleys in the first set, and loses.

McEnroe had already pronounced himself the underdog, had also said that Edberg was playing the best tennis of his life at the moment, even though he might not realise it until later in his career. Both predictions rang truer as each backhand pass slipped into the tramlines, each volley hit the net.

In the first set, it was just a matter of inches. Both missed their shots so frequently it was hard to remember that the pair had won five Wimbledon titles between them. But whereas it was just a matter of time before the world No. 1 adjusted his sights, there seemed no such prospect for McEnroe. His time had gone.

Apart from a break point each in the opening two games, the tie-break beckoned from early in the set. History was on Edberg's side in that. The last time they played each other at Wimbledon, in 1988, Edberg had won in straight sets, the last two on tie-breaks. Once he had taken the first three points, there was little doubt about the latest outcome and that, effectively, was the last McEnroe saw of the match.

"I didn't play particularly well in the first set," Edberg said. "I had problems returning his serve and didn't really find the timing, but after that



Stretching out: McEnroe reaches for a backhand volley but it could not gain him the upper hand against Edberg, the straight-sets winner

it got better and I played some very solid tennis." Solid tennis: Edberg-speak for a bout of brilliance.

After a tight first two games in the second set, the Swede won 22 of the next 24 points, leaving McEnroe shaking his head and searching desperately for some vestige of

his pride. He found it as Edberg momentarily lost his concentration and dropped his serve for the one and only time in the match, but the lapse was temporary. Edberg broke back to 3-2 and, with a whipped forehand down the line and a rare clench of the fist, repeated the dose to lead

4-3. One flicker of temper and flick of the tongue, when an Edberg ace was called good in the eighth game, was all that was left.

McEnroe waited to the end of the game when attention was elsewhere before delivering a four-lettered attack on the offending lines-

man just in front of the royal box. "It's one thing if it's an inch out; another if it's like six inches to a foot out," McEnroe said. Unrepentant to the last or the last but one. McEnroe says he will be back for at least one more year.

More significantly, Edberg now moves into the quarter-

finals for the fifth consecutive year. His opponent looks sure to be Thierry Champion, who had not won a match in four years at Wimbledon before this year and, at 4-1 up in the deciding set against Derrick Rostagno, was about to win his fourth in ten days when rain stopped play.

## The line judges miss McEnroe's charitable side

TENNIS, like all professional sport, gets more insane and out of proportion with every passing year. But yesterday we turned to John McEnroe for calmness of spirit, good sense, and that most humanising quality of all, self-mockery. I am, I promise you, perfectly serious.

After his defeat by Edberg, which had not passed without a few nasty words with a line judge, McEnroe turned into a nice, mellow old buffer with a decent sense of perspective. He also told BBC radio, in his decent, concerned way, that the amount of money in the

game was a problem for the players.

"Ten per cent of all paychecks could be donated to charity," he said. "Millions of dollars could be used to benefit people who are homeless. That would take the pressure off. It's easy to talk when you have money, but having money can be complicating. Money changes your life and it's a pity."

He did not go so far as to propose backdating the proposition to the start of his career — in which case he would owe Shelter \$1.1 million. And that doesn't take into account the lolly for

exhibitions and endorsements. Still, perhaps that is rather a cheap shot. His notion of "taking the pressure off" is interesting.

These days, top players enjoy little camaraderie and have little outright fun. It's all so serious, and it has to be if you are to compete. Players live between workout and matchplay, coach and physio, hotel room and courtesy car. The lolly is good, but you need a mind like teak to earn the top bucks. It does not pay to be over-sensitive.

"In sport it's very selfish, even more so in an individual sport," McEnroe said. "You can't rely on other people to pull you up. You don't get the energy from other people. So it gets more and more difficult."

Perhaps the notion that a few bob from your winnings will go to the starving would open a small window in the prison cell — the solitary confinement to which the remorseless quest for sustained excellence condemns you. You get paid a fortune for this incarceration, but it tends to mean that you forfeit the chance to reach maturity at the usual age.

Graf and Becker have both been publicly grappling with the problems of growing up. Becker, too, has worried about the lolly, calling his own rewards "obscene". Under the ten per cent rule, he would by now have given \$800,000 to the halt and the lame. Would that have taken the pressure off, made the transition into adulthood a more serene one?

McEnroe was talking of his own journey towards the years of discretion, to use the term loosely. "It gets so much tougher. More sacrifices have to be made in order to do what it takes to be No. 1. Your priorities are

different, and you see the world in a different way. You have other interests. I have three children I love, a wife that I love. When you're younger, tennis is your whole life. You don't realise it at the time, but you realise later on. When it's too late."

"I would love my kids to play sport and enjoy it, and certainly play tennis, but as far as playing professional tennis, I would prefer that he didn't... Why put that pressure on my son?"

When sportsmen start to get philosophical, it does sound a little bit like the sixth form common-room discussing the Meaning of

Life and the Problem of Evil. But top athletes live such a peculiar and intense existence that their views are worth an audience. The words may be conventional enough, but the perspective of a man in McEnroe's position must be unique.

And as the pressure on the top tennis players gets ever more intense, what will it do to the minds of the champions and the nearly-men of the next decade? McEnroe signed off at Wimbledon with a Mona Lisa smile and added a remark that carried a wafer-thin layer of irony on top. "Life," he said, "is just a long learning experience."

## Wimbledon's war with touts gets hot

By John Goodbody

WIMBLEDON yesterday claimed another victory in the battle against the black market when it obtained interim injunctions against 20 named touts.

Before the championships, the All England Club obtained a High Court ruling forbidding individuals from dealing in any tickets, other than the 2,100 debutantes, for the 1991 championships and ordering them to hand over all non-transferable tickets in their possession.

John Curry, the club chairman, said: "Touts dealing in Wimbledon tickets should be warned that we are determined to enforce these conditions so that tickets are used by those for whom they were intended — real tennis lovers."

As the search for centre court seats intensifies during the second week of the tournament, touts have become increasingly disgruntled, although there were still dozens of them dealing in tickets outside the ground yesterday. Last week they complained that the new conditions — under which spectators could be challenged by gatemen on how they obtained the seats — had influenced many people not to buy from touts.

Already more than 115

people have had their tickets confiscated, although touts are saying that they are reimbursing unlucky spectators who are turned away.

The court order against the 20 individuals said that they must not "cause, assist, attempt, or offer to obtain, buy, sell, transfer or deal in any Wimbledon tickets other than debutantes" for the 1991 championships. It also forbade touts from approaching to within 400 yards of the club site or within 50 yards of Church Road, Somerset Road and Wimbledon Park Road, the three main methods of access.

It added that the touts must hand over all non-transferable tickets in their possession, supply full details of those from whom tickets were acquired and supply details of any tickets that they have previously sold or transferred. In principle, the police now have the powers to arrest any of the 20 touts named in the order.

### Starting times

□ The referee's office has announced that play on centre and court one today will start at 1pm. All other courts will commence at 11am.

## Capriati finds the chinks in Navratilova's armour

By Andrew Longmore



Fernandez in semi-final

ONE women's singles semi-final line-up was decided, the other was nicely in the balance before, once again in this sodden Championships, rain ended the fun early.

Steffi Graf, playing as well as she has done all year, took her revenge on Zina Garrison to reach her fifth consecutive semi-final and, more surprisingly, Mary Joe Fernandez, not a noted performer on grass, upset Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario in straight sets. The pair will meet in the semi-final.

But the best and most appealing quarter-final of the day, the match which had everything, between Martina Navratilova, aged 34, and Jennifer Capriati, 19 years her junior, was just coming along nicely when the rain intervened.

From the first match, Navratilova has been struggling to find any rhythm on her remodelled serve or, for that matter, consistency on her volleys. In the first round, Reinach showed up the inadequacies, even Amanda Grunfeld broke the champion's serve twice and Capriati exposed the vulnerability once more yes-

The thought of taking her first set from the woman she calls the "legs" seemed to frighten the young Floridian, the thought too that she has not beaten a top-five player, and four times Navratilova attacked the net, forcing the 15-year-old to pass. She missed on each occasion, but produced four service returns and a backhand pass to take the set 6-4 in 28 minutes. Like McEnroe earlier, Navratilova could but throw her head back, smile at her own incompetence and dredge the memory for some inspiration.

When she broke early in the second set, survived three break points to hold serve and had four further points for a 4-1 lead, the balance of the match seemed to be changing, but her 3-2 lead in the second set was looking mighty precarious when the rain came, perhaps just in time for Capriati, who is not the fittest on the circuit.

Gabriela Sabatini was on the way to her third semi-final, leading 6-2, 1-0, against Laura Gildemeister. The Argentinian has yet to find her best form, but she was too strong and experienced for the Peruvian and should finish the task comprehensively today.

## Verdict of Cup jury is queried

By David Powell  
Athletics Correspondent

THE British Amateur Athletic Board (BAAAB) is to seek from the European Athletic Association (EAA) an explanation of why the Soviet Union's disqualified 4 x 400 metres relay team was reinstated in the last event of the European Cup on Sunday, a decision which cost Britain's men victory.

Members of the EAA jury of appeal have admitted that the Soviet first-leg runner, Dmitri Golovastov, ran out of his lane and the international rulebook clearly states that any athlete who does so should be disqualified.

The board spokesman, Tony Ward, said yesterday: "The British management has not seen any written adjudication of the reasons that the jury gave for reinstating the Soviet Union. We want to know on what rule they appealed. We want to know what evidence the jury had at its disposal. We want to make sure we have a cast-iron case before making further moves."

Board senior officers studied again the BBC film which showed Golovastov running out of his lane down the back straight and top bend. "We do not know what film the jury saw," Ward said.

Pierre Desriaux, the EAA secretary, said yesterday that, contrary to the BAAAB's understanding at the time, it did have the right of counter-appeal. "British board officials had 30 minutes to make a counter-protest," Desriaux said. But Ward said: "We don't believe we had the opportunity to counter-protest."

Should the BAAAB not be satisfied with the EAA's response, a protest is likely to follow, though that cannot be heard until the EAA council meeting in October. In the interim, Britain's remaining fixture is against, of all countries, the Soviet Union, in Edinburgh on July 19.

## Soviets are hit by delays

By Mike Rosewell  
Rowing Correspondent

IN SPITE of the efforts of Peter Conti, the Henley chairman, it is unlikely that the full contingent of six Soviet boats will race at the Royal Regatta, which starts today.

Conti and the British Embassy in Moscow have been trying to speed through visa applications, originally submitted in May, but only the Lithuanian-based Vilnius coxed four, who compete in the Prince Philip Challenge Cup, and the top pair in the Silver Goblets of Jonas Narmontas and Sigita Kucinskas, have left Moscow.

Conti, who described the situation as "unbelievable", had indications that the Dinamo Moscow eight and the Moscow-based sculler, Alexandr Marchenko, might arrive at Henley last night. Less hope was held out for the Leningrad pair of Pyotr Gorbunov and Alexei Smirnov, and the sculler, Maxim Fabrichnikov.

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## Hick finds no respite in the nets

GRAEME Hick was bowled third ball by another West Indian during England's practice session at Trent Bridge yesterday. Hick, who has made only 12 runs in his first three Test innings, had his net practice rudely interrupted by Mark Clarke, aged 19.

Clarke, a Nottinghamshire groundstaff boy, uprooted Hick's off stump soon after the Worcestershire batsman had begun his net session.

Mike Atherton, who is nursing a strained stomach muscle, had no more than gentle ten-minute knock up and is given only a 50-50 chance of playing.

Patrick Patterson, the West Indies fast bowler, showed no reaction to a knee injury and could well return.

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